

Package 'leans to cautious side'

King reduces armed forces by 18 per cent

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE THREE armed services are to be cut by 18 per cent and two divisions of the British Army of the Rhine withdrawn in the next five years as part of the long-awaited "options for change" defence review.

Tom King, the defence secretary, refused to put a price on the peace dividend when pressed by the Opposition after he had detailed the proposed cuts in a Commons statement yesterday. But he promised substantial savings towards the end of the five years.

Under the proposals, approved by cabinet earlier in the day, the army will be cut by 40,000, the RAF by 14,000 and the Royal Navy by 3,000. Civilian numbers will also be cut by 21,000.

In Germany, two of the four RAF bases will be closed and the number of squadrons will be reduced from fifteen to nine. The three army divisions in Germany, supplemented by another based in Britain, will be cut to two, with one kept at home but committed to the continent.

Mr King acknowledged at a press conference in the defence ministry that the overall package he had produced after a six-month internal review leaned towards the cautious side. He called the proposals sensible, but insisted that some elements were radical. He cited the halving of army personnel based in West Germany to about 25,000, the RAF base closures there, and a

planned reduction in the submarine fleet from 27 to 16, a move which took the navy by surprise yesterday.

While not as radical as some inside the defence ministry had wanted, the proposed cuts were welcomed by Martin O'Neill, the Labour defence spokesman, as the first step towards changing Britain's armed services in the light of the reduced threat from the Warsaw Pact.

He said it was essential that the financial implications of the cuts should be revealed to the Commons as soon as possible. He also wanted a full debate when Parliament returned from the summer recess.

Mr King was joined at his press conference by Alan Clark, the minister of state for defence procurement, who had produced a paper proposing much wider cuts that was circulated to the prime minister and some of her cabinet colleagues last December.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the measures announced yesterday, he replied that he entirely supported Mr King's solutions.

Now that the basic details of the changes have been announced, the three services face at least six months' work of detailed study before a white paper can be put before the Commons, probably next spring.

Mr King declined to say when the personnel cuts would begin, but sources from all three services did not expect withdrawals from Germany to start for about a year.

Mr King gave reassurance that although some redundancies would probably be necessary, they would not be widespread. Much of the reduction could be dealt with through natural wastage and he planned to ease back on army recruiting, which he expected to have a considerable impact on manpower levels.

While the purpose of the statement yesterday was to reveal the planned cuts in the services, Mr King was also eager to point out that the government wanted to maintain a strong defence and certain areas would be left untouched. These included the nuclear deterrent force, and he confirmed that four Trident submarines, not three, would be ordered to replace the Polaris boats. The government also intended to go ahead with the purchase of tactical air-to-surface missiles (Tasm), to replace the old free-fall bombs, which Mr King said would be deployed in Germany as well as in Britain on Tornado aircraft. Also sac-

rospect are all the commitments outside the Nato area such as the Falklands, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Belize.

Mr King also disclosed that it was intended to create a special strategic reserve force to be based in Britain that would have responsibility for out-of-area operations.

Mr King told the Commons that the precise shape of Britain's contributions to Nato would have to reflect future discussions with allies. "We have sought to devise a structure for our regular forces appropriate to the new security situation and meeting our essential peacetime operational needs."

Explaining why the proposals were "sensible" and balanced, he said: "There clearly are opportunities but also risks in Europe; and elsewhere some worrying trends — not least the proliferation of sophisticated weapons systems."

"We shall therefore continue to need a robust defence capability as our insurance against the unexpected. Our armed forces, albeit at lower levels, will be as important a safeguard for our country in the future as they have been in the past."

He then hinted that there would be a "service dividend" as well as a peace dividend by insisting that the aim was to have smaller forces that were better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well-motivated.

Apart from the cut in the submarine force, the navy appears to have survived reasonably unscathed. Mr King said that he envisaged a future destroyer/frigate force of around 40 ships. At present there are 48 and, until now, the government has always been committed to maintaining a fleet of around 50 ships. The reduction would be achieved by paying off older, less capable ships.

Another important proposal is that the Buccaneer maritime aircraft force will be phased out, to be replaced by dual-capable Tornados re-deployed from Germany and equipped with Sea Eagle missiles for an anti-ship role. There will also be a 15 per cent reduction in the number of Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft. This will mean a cut of about five of the aircraft.

Mr King said: "We believe that the new force structures we envisage can give us strong and reliable defences, in changing circumstances, and at an affordable cost."

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Leading article, page 11

British diplomats cut off in Liberia attack

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British ambassador in Liberia has taken refuge with the Americans after being cut off by fighting in Monrovia. Michael Gore and two other British diplomats were in the outskirts of the city checking that British residents were safe when rebel forces attacked the industrial area.

As it was too dangerous to return to the embassy they stayed at a building owned by the American authorities but not the US embassy. Whitehall sources said they had been

there for two days, while the other two British staff remained at the British Embassy. The incident underlined the dangers facing the 60 Britons still in Monrovia.

The two Royal Navy vessels which had been standing by have left the area. Whitehall sources said they were no longer needed.

A US task force is standing offshore and could evacuate Britons if necessary.

Photograph, page 8

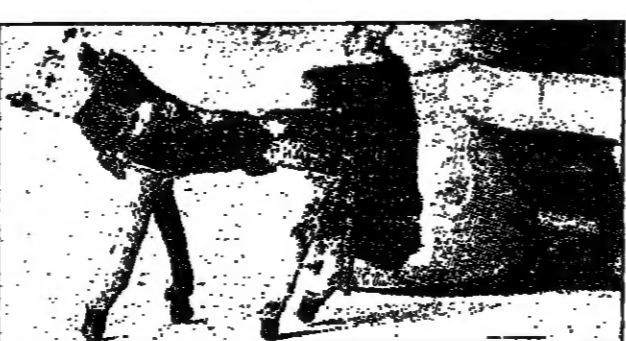
The golden calf emerges from its stable

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

AN AMERICAN archaeological team digging in ancient Canaanite ruins south of Tel Aviv has unearthed a "golden calf", the worship of which angered God and the holy men of the Old Testament.

The find was announced by Dr Laurence Stager, a Harvard university professor involved in the dig for the past six years. He said the calf figurine, which stands about four-and-a-half inches high and long, was the first of its kind to be discovered.

He estimated that the calf was made about 1,550 BC and that it predated the famous



The calf and the pottery shrine in which it was encased

golden calf in the Bible destroyed by Moses.

In Exodus 32, Moses comes down from Mount Sinai to discover that his Israelites, bored in his absence, have

made a molten calf from their women's jewellery. Angered by the blasphemy "he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain", the Old Test-

ament says. He then took the calf and threw it into the fire and ground the remains to a powder.

Calves were worshipped in Egypt as well as in ancient Canaan, the land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan river in what is now Israel.

"The Hebrews came out of the Canaanite milieu," Dr Stager said. "This figurine shows the calf was a religious object in the area centuries before Moses."

The newly-found calf, dated from pottery shards found with it, would have been worshipped prior to 1550 BC, when the area was conquered by the Egyptians. The account of Moses is believed to have

occurred between 1,200 BC and 1,500 BC.

The tiny figure is not actually made of gold. Dr Stager said. The body is of bronze, but burnishing marks show it was polished to a high sheen to resemble gold, the legs and head are of silver, fastened with metal pegs. The horns and tail are of copper wire.

It was found about one month ago inside a shattered pottery vessel that probably served as its display case in a pagan temple near the gate to the ancient port of Ashkelon.

"We are not really sure what the golden calf signifies, whether this size was usual or not and how it was actually worshipped," Dr Stager said.

BAe to test EC's Rover ruling

By STEPHEN LEATHER

BRITISH Aerospace is refusing to accept the decision by the European Commission that it should be forced to repay the hidden subsidies it was given when the Rover car and Land-Rover businesses were privatised. Yesterday, BAe said it had decided to take its case to the European Court of Justice to test the legality of the decision.

The British government has already accepted the EC verdict, though it disputed the sums involved, arguing that the £33.4 million calculated as the interest saving to the company was only £22 million when the benefit was assessed net of tax.

Nicholas Ridley, the former trade and industry secretary, said he accepted in principle the Commission's ruling requiring BAe to repay to the government the £9.5 million contribution towards its costs in buying out minority shareholders, and the grant of £1.5 million on its acquisition costs for Rover Group two years ago.

But Mr Ridley told the Commons last month that the government was prepared to support BAe in arguments over the true benefit it derived from being allowed to defer payment of the £150 million paid for Rover. He said the arguments could cut the repayment by £11.4 million.

BAe issued a statement last night saying that it had carried out a "careful review" of the Commission's decision and had taken independent professional advice. Spokesman Gerry Wooding said that the decision to test the case before the European Court of Justice was taken to protect shareholders' interests.

"The company has no alternative but to exercise its right to test before the European Court of Justice the legality of that part of the Commission's decision relating to the amount required to be recovered from British Aerospace," he said.

Mr Wooding said that it was too early to say what form BAe's arguments would take. "It would be inappropriate to

Continued on page 22, col 5

Iraq-Kuwait talks ease Middle East tensions

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, CAIRO, AND JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO, KUWAIT

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt said last night that envoys from Iraq and Kuwait would meet at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia at the weekend to try to defuse the tension between the two Gulf neighbours.

Kuwait's crown prince, meanwhile, had earlier announced that the tiny Gulf state was prepared for direct talks with Iraq on their dispute over territorial claims and oil production. In a surprise move, Esso yesterday increased petrol prices by 4p a gallon in Britain in anticipation of today's Opec meeting in Geneva.

As intense diplomatic efforts to contain the threat of war between Iraq and Kuwait continued, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the emirate's crown prince and prime minister, went some way to meeting demands made by Iraq as conditions for not resorting to military force.

His offer was made as tension in the strategic region remained at its most dangerous level since the end of the Gulf war 23 months ago, with some 30,000 Iraqi combat troops massed along a hundred miles of the desert

border with Kuwait, supported by at least 200 Soviet-built tanks.

"Everyone knows that Kuwait wanted and still wants in all sincerity and enthusiasm to meet our brothers in Iraq to reach an understanding in a brotherly atmosphere on a formula which will serve the interest of the two brotherly nations," the sheikh said in a speech distributed by the official Kuwait news agency, adding: "I am optimistic that the efforts of the (mediating) brothers will produce a formula and the good ties between Kuwait and Iraq will return."

According to diplomatic sources, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who has so far demonstrated little appetite for compromise, agreed to refrain from any attack providing the Kuwaitis met for direct talks and also agreed to pay reparations of \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) for oil Iraq insists was extracted from wells dug on its territory.

The Kuwaiti government was yesterday struggling to maintain an air of normality and imposed a total blackout on the news about the Iraqi

military buildup and the subsequent "Short Notice" naval manoeuvres being conducted by the US Navy and the United Arab Emirates forces. Esso's price increase came after sharp rises in the oil price in world markets during the past three weeks which were triggered by the threat of military action in Kuwait (Martin Barrow writes). As a result of the increase a gallon of four-star will cost 194p or 44.9p a litre and premium unleaded 190.5p (41.9p).

Esso's action is expected to start another round of price rises around the country, although competitors were last night undecided about whether to follow suit immediately or wait for the dust to settle after the Opec meeting. A spokesman for BP, one of the largest retailers, said: "No decision has been taken yet."

Esso said that the increase was inevitable after rises of up to \$30 a tonne of gasoline on world markets over the past three weeks.

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Can Opec survive? page 10
Prices to rise, page 23

'Dazed' Carey to succeed Runcie

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Rt Rev George Carey, Bishop of Bath and Wells, is to succeed Dr Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury, it was announced yesterday.

Dr Carey, aged 54, who said he was "dazed and unworthy", is by far the youngest Archbishop of Canterbury in recent history. The announcement, three months earlier than expected, took the Church of England by surprise. Although it was unexpected that the next archbishop would come from the church's evangelical wing, Dr Carey was not the prime candidate.

He is the son of a hospital porter, a true Cockney "born within the sound of Bow bells who left school at 15. His name had hardly figured in previous speculation, which put the Most Rev John Habgood, Archbishop of York, and the Rt Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, as the leading contenders.

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Lambeth leapfrog, page 10
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INSIDE

Overhaul for police urged

MPs yesterday called for a radical overhaul of Britain's policing system to replace the "Heath Robinson" character of the present structure. The Commons home affairs select committee said it represented generations of piecemeal solutions. Sir John Wheeler, chairman, spoke of the glaring deficiencies of a system that consumes over £4 billion of public funds annually. Page 3

Miners' deal

The International Miners Organisation is to allow its finances to be examined as part of a deal aimed at preventing Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, facing court action by his own union for the recovery of Russian money. Page 2

No magic circle

Members of a project investigating circles and patterns appearing on corn fields in southern England were enraged yesterday after finding markings in an area close to almost £1 million of observation equipment were a man-made hoax. Page 3

Arms deadline

President Gorbachev yesterday issued a presidential decree instructing all unauthorized units on Soviet territory to disband within fifteen days and surrender weapons. Page 7

Diamond sales

The Swiss arm of South Africa's De Beers diamond group has signed a five year exclusive contract worth \$5 billion with the Soviet Union to market rough diamonds. Page 23

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Tory MPs critical of 'outmoded' policing

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL new structure should be created to replace the outmoded, inefficient and Heath Robinson character of policing in Britain, a group of MPs said yesterday.

In an outspoken attack designed to prompt public debate on the future of policing, the Commons home affairs select committee said the present system represented the sum of generations of piecemeal solutions. A thorough overhaul was needed, it said.

Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the Conservative-dominated

committee and an advocate of a centrally funded national structure, later drove home the point when he spoke of the glaring deficiencies and incompetence of a system that consumed more than £4 billion of public funds annually. He thought it staggering that over 200 years after the magistrate Sir John Fielding, who founded the Bow Street Runners, had called for a national force, politicians and chief constables were still "fiddling around" with the concept.

The committee's criticism that the system lacked proper accountability may prove particularly telling as its defenders always say the merit of having 52 geographically organised forces is that it guarantees responsiveness to local needs and complaints. The MPs, however, say accountability has become increasingly muddled with the emergence of cross-county squads such as the National Drugs Intelligence Unit.

There were also no clear lines of command or authority as three government departments had big policing responsibilities and chief constables belonged to an association that was a "quasi-trade union, quasi-directional body". Police authorities, the third leg of the structure, were "curious amalgams" of magistrates and councillors.

Sir John and the committee's other Tory members think a national force should be set up, funded by the Home Office. At present the costs are shared between central and local government.

The report, which urges the government to come forward with reform proposals, says: "The time has come to devise a structure which will allow the abandonment of piecemeal solutions and the Heath Robinson structures which have up until now allowed the police service to make do with a system essentially designed in a Victorian Britain."

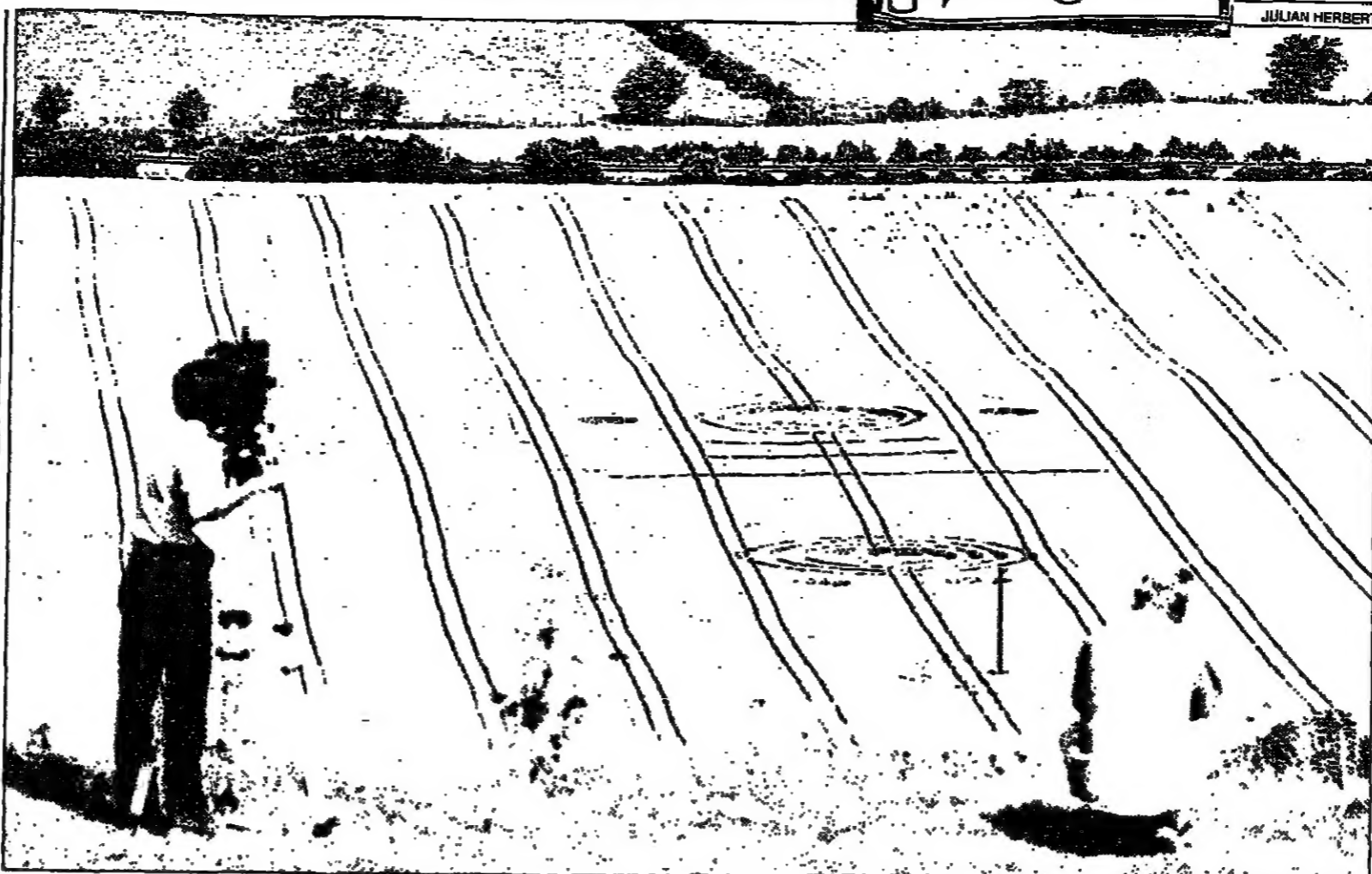
The committee, whose controversial critique emerged from an examination of the extent of co-operation between European police forces, also called for the creation of a voluntary identity card system in Britain. Pointing out that the holding of an identity card was compulsory in most European Community states, it said the introduction of such a document in Britain would enable holders to instantly identify themselves and would encourage them to travel more widely abroad. In evidence, however, David Waddington, the home secretary, and police officers were less keen.

The establishment of a Community-wide identity card should be an aim of Britain's presidency of the Community in 1992, it adds.

The MPs regretted Mr Waddington's aversion to the idea of police within the Community combining operationally as well as in intelligence gathering. They urged him to commission research to examine the viability of cross-frontier units being set up to tackle threats such as terrorism or drugs trafficking.

The committee also said there was a need for greater liaison over legal matters, particularly on extradition.

Responding to the call for national identity cards, the National Council for Civil Liberties said there was no such thing as a voluntary card. If one were to be introduced it would lead to greater discrimination by the police against non-white citizens.



The circles that appeared overnight in a Wiltshire field, the result of a practical joke that has infuriated researchers

Scientists protest as hoaxers create a magic circle

By GEORGE HILL

SOMEONE was having a good laugh yesterday morning, either on Mars or in Fleet Street. But high on the chalk ramparts of the prehistoric fort at Westbury Hill in Wiltshire, Colin Andrews was fuming.

Almost £1 million worth of equipment had been assembled at the fort, a vantage point overlooking 60 square miles of rippling cornfields, in the hope of catching the moment of birth of one of the mysterious patterns that have been observed in southern England more often than ever this summer.

Mr Andrews, a leader of the joint project that involves Japanese television, the BBC and Circles Phenomena Research (Mr Andrews' organisation), had been roused at dawn by jubilant colleagues with the news that a series of circles and parallel lines had appeared in a field scarcely a mile from the project's low-light video cameras. But, on inspection, the rings proved to be man-made.

In front of the cameras of the international media, Mr Andrews could only declare his rage at the deception. "Whoever created that circle has demonstrated to young people that it is no bad thing to go on to private property and destroy crops, and to hoodwink a serious research project," he said. "I saw at once that we had an obvious hoax. The pattern is not consistent with the development of this perfectly genuine phenomenon, and an inspection on the ground showed very severe damage to the corn - bruising, severance and disturbance consistent with human feet. This is quite unlike the pattern one sees in genuine circles."

In the centre of last night's largest circle, which had three concentric rings, the investigators found a Ouija board, two sticks forming a cross, and a coil of red insulated electric cable. "The incident has demonstrated that our equipment can tell within seconds whether a ring is a hoax or not," Mr Andrews declared, making the best of the case. "The equipment even detected the heat from the bodies of the perpetrators." But a BBC producer involved in the



The cross and Ouija board found at the site

project was more cautious: "Our people watching the tapes during the night saw nothing. At dawn, we saw that the circles had appeared. When we checked the tapes, we saw that the circles had appeared at about 3am. There were lights to be seen on the tape, but it is possible that they were dew drops on the front of the camera."

Michael King, joint owner of the field where the rings appeared, said: "I have always believed that these things were just practical jokes. They are just a nuisance to us. It gets up my nose that people think it's amusing to go on to private property and destroy good crops, just for fun."

Mr Andrews, who has been hunting crop circles for 12 years, did not let the disappointment shake his faith that there is a genuine non-human phenomenon to be studied, and that it is caused by processes unknown to science. "I would not disagree that supernatural is the most appropriate word in our language today for what we are seeing in genuine circles. But I am sure that what is regarded as supernatural today will be science tomorrow."

"There is fairly powerful evidence that we are dealing with some form of consciousness, aware of its location and responding to colour and man-made features. Year by year, the circles have increased in complexity, in a process that has evolved more quickly than any natural phenomenon recorded. This is a very deep subject."

He would not enlarge on whether the signs contained any message. "I have thoughts, but I cannot divulge anything that might damage this research programme."

Hailstones, hedgehogs or simply summer madness

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE only theory bearing any credence after yesterday's crop circle fiasco is the one cherished by scientists at the Meteorological Office in Bracknell. "We have people looking at these things in their spare time, and the consensus is that they are a glorified hoax," a spokesman said.

He said that scientists had been unable to identify atmospheric features capable of carving circular, rectangular or dumb-bell shapes in wheatfields. The Meteorological Office had suggested that they could be the torches of pranksters, even before yesterday morning's filming of orange lights was a hoax.

Many dedicated enthusiasts would to some extent concur with the weathermen's view, but Archibald Roy, professor of astronomy at Glasgow University and president of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, said that hoaxers could not account for all of this year's 400 recorded flattenings.

The widely held view of the phenomenon is that it is exclusive to the southern half of England, and confined to the last ten years. However,

crop circles have been found as far north as Grampian in Scotland and, according to Terence Meaden, former associate professor of physics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, and founder of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, evidence of "mowing devils" dates back at least to the Middle Ages.

Professor Roy said that there was even speculation that 2,000 years ago, in an attempt to placate the gods, Britain's Celtic ancestors designed their stone circles at places such as Stonehenge and Avebury, after witnessing crop circles.

The most scientifically respected theory is the one being advanced by Dr Meaden, who believes that the topography of Wiltshire and Hampshire and the region's high frequency of cool sea breezes causes the formation of mini whirlwinds.

As they break down over fields, a doughnut-shaped eddy within the column sweeps downwards, swirling the crop into a characteristic shape. The lights linked with crop circle phenomenon are caused by particles of pollen, dust and salt that have be-

come charged by the whirlwind's intense spin, Dr Meaden claimed.

Critics believe such a neat explanation fails to answer this summer's appearance of elaborate circles within circles, and increasingly complicated shapes. The idea that circles could be caused by the downdraught from the spinning blades of helicopters have been dismissed by the military, who claim that they could make shapes in crops only if they flew upside down. Giant melting hailstones, possibly formed by aircraft discharging sewage, UFOs, ghosts, small holes in the ozone layer allowing ultra violet light to weaken crops, soil disorders, spreading underground fungi, and rutting deer are all theories that have their supporters and detractors.

A belief that frenzied hedgehogs, running in circles, are to blame has also gained little credence among wildlife experts who claim that 40,000 well organised animals would be needed to make just one small circle.

Science and Technology, pages 14-15

MPs seek improved pay in residential homes

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PAY and working conditions in residential homes must be improved to safeguard standards of care in the community, the Commons social services select committee suggested yesterday.

The committee highlighted evidence from the Greater Manchester Low Pay Unit that showed that rates of pay in private residential homes were considerably lower than in local authority homes. Yesterday the unit said that it had examples where care assistants were paid only £1.75 an hour in private homes, compared to the local government rate of £3.21.

A woman who worked permanently on night duty in a residential home in Salford had no overtime pay and no paid holidays, but still received only £1.75 an hour, the unit reported. In its evidence to the committee, the unit calls for local authorities to be given wider statutory powers to set "proper" pay rates and conditions of employment.

Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Denton and Reddish, told a press conference yesterday that in some parts of the country there was an overprovision of private homes. As the new reforms came into effect he feared that private homes would compete with each other to offer lower prices resulting in even poorer working conditions. That would be extremely worrying in terms of the standard of care.

The committee report also calls on the government to set up independent inspection units to cover each local authority area. They would be answerable to a strengthened and more independent social services inspectorate.

Under the now delayed plan for the community care reforms "arm's length" inspection bodies will be set up by local councils to monitor residential homes in the public and the private sector from next April in advance of the main reforms. However, the report argues that a national body should perform both an inspecting and an advisory role, similar to the Inspectors of Schools. It also suggests setting up an accreditation system for the planned mixed-economy provision of care under the reforms.

Community Care: Quality (Stationery Office, £6.45)

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, 1989, Stationery Office (£8.80)



Judge Tumim: Better training sought

The Guinness case

QC sees deceit in takeover secrecy

By PAUL WILKINSON

JURORS in the Guinness trial were yesterday urged to ask themselves why alleged share support operations during the brewers' takeover of Distillers in 1986 were kept secret. Was it done to mislead or to deceive, John Chadwick, QC, for the prosecution, asked at the start of his closing speech at Southwark Crown Court, south London.

"You may have heard the expression 'secrecy is the badge of fraud'. When you find that a transaction is being kept under wraps it is sensible to ask why. There may be good commercial reasons, but it may also be that the transaction has to be hidden if it is to be effective and then you should ask 'does the transaction depend for its effect upon deception, is that why it has to be hidden?'"

Mr Chadwick was speaking on the ninety-third day of the hearing as the case entered its closing stages. The jury has been present for 77 of those days and heard evidence from 73 witnesses. Mr Justice Henry told them he expected to send them out to consider

their verdict during the week beginning August 13.

Ernest Saunders, former chairman of Guinness, and three City figures have denied 22 counts alleging theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act during the Distillers takeover. It has been claimed that success fees running into millions of pounds were paid illegally by Guinness to ensure its bid was successful. With Mr Saunders in the dock is the Gerald Ronson, chairman of Britain's second largest privately owned group Heron, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier.

Mr Chadwick told the jury that he agreed that no evidence had been brought to show that those involved had been sworn to secrecy, "experienced" and sophisticated businessmen are not likely to say to each other 'keep this secret, we must not be found out'. They do not need to."

Mr Chadwick said that Mr Ronson's defence was that he did not appreciate it was unlawful. Mr Parnes maintained that it was not in fact

unlawful and Sir Jack contended that he was not involved at all. Mr Saunders said that he knew nothing about a support operation.

"These will be matters for you to judge," Mr Chadwick said. Mr Chadwick then turned to the charges involving Mr Ronson's Heron Corporation. Mr Ronson has admitted receiving a £5 million success fee and £800,000 to cover losses incurred when the Guinness shares were sold for less than they cost.

The money was paid to Heron through two of its subsidiaries, Heron Management Services and an American Company, Pima of Arizona. Two issues were at stake: was it implicit that the payments would not be disclosed to the public and was Mr Ronson acting dishonestly in making agreements on them? "You should have no hesitation in deciding that it was implicit in the agreements which Mr Ronson has said he made that the arrangements would not be disclosed to the public and that Mr Ronson was well aware of that."

Mr Chadwick said that Mr Parnes had acted as a link between Mr Saunders and Mr Ronson. "Mr Parnes, unlike the others, was an experienced stockbroker. He must have known that the purchases of Guinness shares against an indemnity and success fee ought to have been disclosed and that no disclosure had been made."

Turning to the case of Mr Saunders, Mr Chadwick told the jury: "In approaching the question of Mr Saunders' honesty you will, of course, have in mind that he has denied any involvement in the arrangements. If you accept his denial the question of dishonest concealment by him does not arise."

"But if you are satisfied that Mr Saunders' denial cannot be accepted and are satisfied that he did make the arrangements alleged, then you must ask yourselves why he has denied them. The prosecution say, of course, that the denial is consistent only with dishonesty."

The hearing continues today.

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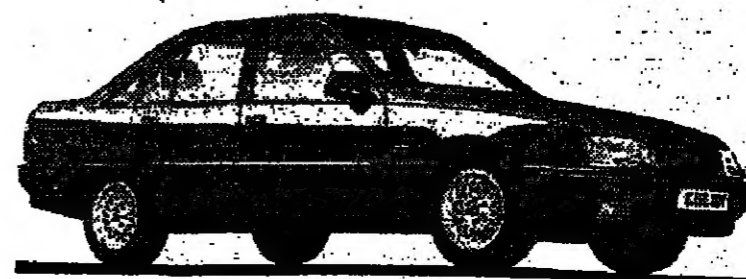
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Strategy for a fighting force fit for the 1990s takes shape

The defence secretary did the decent thing in his ministerial statement to the House of Commons yesterday. A couple of weeks ago he promised that, before MPs left for their holidays, he would explain how his ministry intends to economise during what is left of 1990-1 to ensure that it does not exceed its £21 billion cash budget for the financial year. He said a bit about that.

Tom King has also been under pressure of late to disclose what sort of blueprint for Britain's defence effort in the 1990s might eventually emerge from the "options for change" exercise which his senior people are undertaking. Uncertainty about that has begun to affect morale in the forces, especially among the 60,000 troops in West Germany. Defence contractors too have been crying out for guidance on what the future holds. The minister had quite a lot to say about that. He was

cryptic about short-term economy measures, but we can guess what he intends. When you have to axe several hundred million pounds from a departmental programme in a hurry, there is little margin for manoeuvre.

To check personnel spending, the services have certainly been told to go slow on recruiting and not to worry if they fall short of manning targets. To keep outlays on operations and maintenance within bounds, my guess is that soon there is to be a cut-back in activity levels (ship-days at sea, the army's field training, aircraft flying hours); and equipment that breaks down will increasingly be left unrepaired.

As for procurement expenditure — for new equipment — the word has probably gone out already that orders must be slashed and acquisition timetables stretched wherever possible. (Cancellation of a follow-on order for Tornados was announced just the

other week). Perhaps it was embarrassing that made the defence secretary tight-lipped about these hasty cuts. After all it is astounding that the defence ministry should be struggling to extricate itself from a financial pickle. Whatever happened to the MoD's smart new structures and procedures for managing its programme?

The official line is, of course, that the Treasury is the culprit. The mandarins there grossly underestimated the inflation rate when setting defence's cash allocation for 1990-1; and the fact that the prospect of running out of money before the end of the financial year was spotted so early actually shows the effectiveness of the new cash management routines. That may be true. However, it is also the case that, for at least five years now, reputable defence analysts have been pointing to a growing discrepancy between the cash allocated to the MoD's programme and

the resources required to sustain the existing force structure and force levels while keeping the services' equipment up to date and up to scratch.

So, there is now to be a root-and-branch review of the defence effort, arising from the option for change undertaken. The impulses behind this exercise are the changed climate of East-West relations, the imminence of a first accord on reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE), plus the reformulation of Nato's doctrine and impending reorganisation of Nato's dispositions on the Continent.

Yesterday's ministerial statement conveyed the bare bones of what Mrs Thatcher's government has in mind for a phased adjustment over the next five to seven years. It envisages bringing a division's worth of troops home from West Germany and reducing the number of RAF bases there from four to two. That will please the increasingly

environment conscious Germans. A UK-based division will be struck from the army's order of battle and the air force will lose a total of five interception/strike Tornado squadrons.

They are not going to savage the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines, however. The government thinks the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines should lose less than 5 per cent of their personnel and very few warships. The modest contraction fore-shadowed for the navy may, of course, be a reflection of what Liddell Hart called the "dining out power" which the senior service can muster, or even the special place in the prime minister's affections which her admirals won during the Falklands campaign.

However it also makes sense. For one thing naval power fits in well with the concept of a shift towards more flexible, mobile and versatile forces for the late 1990s, when the likelihood is that the

main challenges to Western security will arise outside rather than within the Nato area. But, more important, a reallocation of roles and responsibilities within the Atlantic alliance is about to occur as a new model force structure — centred on a 370,000-strong united Germanies' Bundeswehr and a much-reduced American presence of 195,000 (and maybe fewer) in the central region — is put in place.

It is the desirability of thus meshing whatever restructuring the United Kingdom does with what is being done in the alliance as a whole which makes it particularly gratifying that Mr King was at pains yesterday to emphasise that the final shape of his defence review would not be settled until after the fullest consultation with allies.

DAVID GREENWOOD
Director of the Centre for Defence Studies, University of Aberdeen

How German unity leaves services' fate in the balance

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A UNITED Germany might request the total withdrawal of British forces from its territory, the Commons defence committee said yesterday in a report on the implications of the unification of Germany and the disintegration of the threat from the Warsaw Pact.

The MPs reported: "The purely military justification for stationed forces in Germany has to be questioned as forward defence is reviewed and as the Bundeswehr looks increasingly able to provide for defence of German territory. If the new Germany were positively to request the withdrawal of BFG (British Forces Germany), that would put the matter beyond doubt. It is a possibility which has to be borne in mind."

It was just as plausible to imagine, however, that as its military role receded and its overall numbers were reduced, the political role of the BFG would increase and that Germany and the rest of Europe would welcome integrated stationed forces in Germany. The committee gave a warning that the deployment of British units in Germany must be a matter for agreement within Nato, responding to the outcome of discussions on a replacement of the present corps structure.

It would be premature to quantify at this stage the exact number of British soldiers to be withdrawn. "Until new deployments and command structures are clearer, BFG's basic structure — if not its size — can remain as it is," the report said. There was no

inevitable logic in seeking to match any reductions exactly to those made by the Soviet Union in East Germany or other Nato countries in West Germany. It was clear, however, that the commitments under the Paris protocols to the Brussels Treaty were no longer appropriate.

The committee's report, a summary of which was released on Tuesday, focused in some detail on the likely fate of the British Army of the Rhine and the RAF squadrons in Germany. The immediate question to be faced, the MPs said, was the extent to which units withdrawn were to be redeployed or disbanded.

Moving troops presented a management challenge in securing housing and alternative training areas. The defence ministry had told the MPs that there were no available UK permanent barracks "capable of housing an army major unit and its families".

New barracks for an infantry battalion could cost up to £55 million, the committee said, excluding the cost of land. It would be prudent to assume, however, that most of the forces withdrawn from Germany would not be retained. Staff from disbanded units who wished to remain in the services could be used to fill vacant posts elsewhere. "It would be absurd to lose highly-trained personnel when the services cannot recruit and retain enough of them," the report said.

Nevertheless, some service and civilian personnel would probably be made redundant.

Therefore, the terms should be "agreed and promulgated as soon as possible".

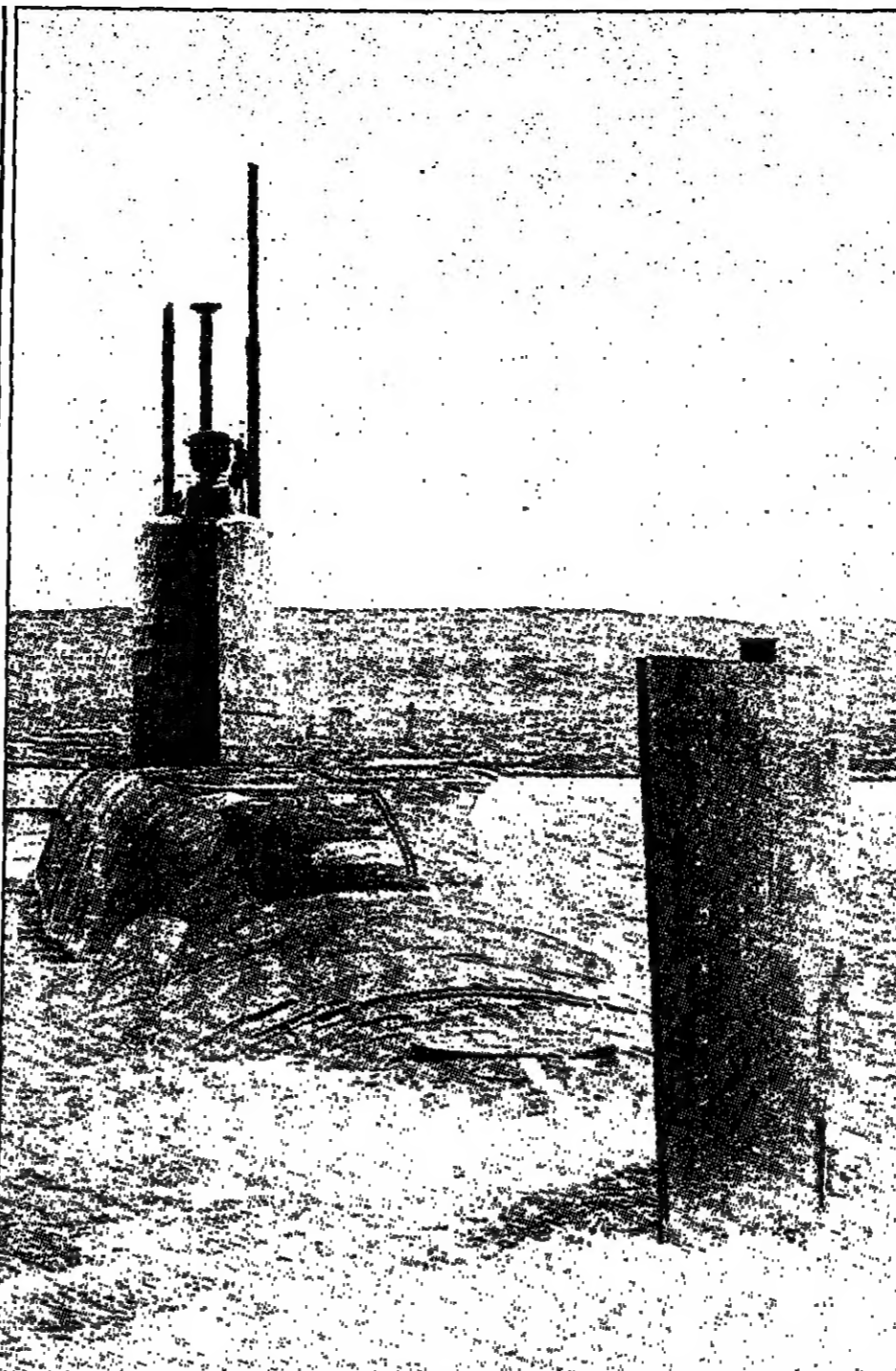
The report added that the government's "options for change" defence review must indicate the financial implications of British troops withdrawing from Germany. An infrastructure equivalent to a small city had been developed in northwest Germany. There were 82 schools, four hospitals and 70 medical centres. Ten per cent of married BFG personnel had German wives. A smaller British presence would not need fixed infrastructure on the present scale.

The committee suggested that, in the longer term, some forces could be stationed elsewhere on the continent, albeit in very small numbers, even though Tom King, the defence secretary, had said he considered it unlikely.

The committee accepted that there were political advantages to having multinational forces in Germany. The government had already endorsed the concept as a way of deploying stationed forces there in the future. But the MPs raised some doubts. "Multinational forces consisting of troops from several different countries, with different equipment, training and discipline, and no common language, could be a recipe for disaster."

Defence Implications of Recent Events (Commons Defence Committee, Stationery Office, £18)

Leading article, page 11



HMS Repulse, one of four Polaris ballistic missile submarines, Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, returning to port after completing the 200th Polaris patrol since the boats came into service more than 21 years ago. The Polaris boats, which are to be replaced by Trident, maintain the deterrent at sea on patrol 365 days a year.

Radical ideas set aside as ministry puts safety first

By OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government's "options for change" defence review has come up with a series of sensible, practical proposals but few could be called radical. While there are significant planned reductions in army and air force personnel stationed in Germany, the government remains committed to a sizeable continental presence.

There are cuts across the board for all three services, yet none of the key roles has been dropped. There is also to be a more structured out-of-area capability with a strategic reserve force in Britain, having its own headquarters and able to call on the services of units such as the air mobile force, 3 Commando Brigade and the airborne forces.

The scenarios painted by the review team at the defence ministry had included much more radical proposals, some of them based on the paper produced by Alan Clark, the defence procurement minister. However, the more radical approach began to lose favour as the prime minister and Tom King, the defence secretary, became increasingly concerned about growing instability in Eastern Europe and the need, as they saw it, to maintain an all-round defence capability.

The navy perhaps was the most surprised yesterday as they were told that the submarine force was to be cut from 27 nuclear and diesel boats to around 16. This was in spite of statements from Mr King in the past that the Soviet navy's submarine capability was being enhanced even though the number of boats was being reduced, with

one submarine coming off the production line every six weeks.

What do the cuts mean for the three services? In Germany, army personnel will be cut from the present establishment of 56,000 to between 25,000 and 27,000. That probably means one division of about 15,000 men and another 10,000 deployed with other allied forces. The second division to be maintained for the defence of the European mainland will be based in the UK.

The overall cuts in army jobs will be 40,000.

It is not clear what the relationship will be between regular and reserve forces but Mr King has made it clear that he wants reserves to take on a more prominent role. One key difficulty here is that the defence ministry has failed to reach a new recruiting target for the Territorial Army.

There is no firm commitment in yesterday's statement to future heavy equipment programmes, but army sources were confident last night that if a continental presence were to be maintained and if the army were to be capable of fighting in high intensity operations, tanks, heavy artillery and other central front orientated weapons systems would still be needed.

For the RAF, the closure of two bases in Germany and the loss of four Phantom squadrons (two in Germany and two in the UK) and three Tornado squadrons, which will be put in storage, does not alter the fact that the government has decided that the breadth of the RAF's commitments should be maintained. No roles have been seriously affected.

There will have to be a serious debate as to which of the bases in Germany should be closed. The most vulnerable is the one at Gutersloh near Hannover, which is a station for Harriers and helicopters, because it is located well forward. The other vulnerable base is at Wildenrath, which houses the Phantom squadrons that are to be withdrawn.

The two other bases are at Bruggen and Laubach, which, like Wildenrath are on the Dutch/German border.

The navy has to lose only 3,000 personnel. Eleven per cent of manpower had been cut in the past nine years, but the loss of so many submarines even though most of them will be the older ones will be seen as a traumatic decision by the navy. However the Fleet Air Arm has survived the cuts with the decision to keep all three carriers equipped with the new Merlin helicopter, the improved Harriers and the Lynx Mark 8 helicopter.

The government also continues to be committed to having an amphibious capability for the Royal Marines, which will mean that the old assault ships HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid will be replaced.

King's statement to the Commons on defence structure for the 90s

Excerpts from the statement to the House of Commons by Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence.

IN THE "options for change" studies, we have sought to devise a structure for our regular forces appropriate to the new security situation and meeting our essential peacetime operational needs. The framework would be reinforced in a period of tension by drawing on volunteer reserves and reservists. We have also allowed for the possible need to build back up our forces over a longer period should international circumstances ever require us to do so.

There clearly are opportunities but also risks in Europe; and elsewhere some worrying trends — not least, the proliferation of sophisticated weapons systems. We shall therefore continue to need a robust defence capability as our insurance against the unexpected.

Our proposals will bring a reduction in the share of GDP taken by defence. We need force levels which we can afford and which can realistically be manned. The aim is smaller forces, better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well motivated. They will need to be flexible and mobile.

We shall retain our strategic deterrent with a four-boat Trident force. In accordance with Nato

policy for an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional forces in Europe, we shall also need a sub-strategic force of dual-capable Tornados with a stand-off missile.

We must also continue to ensure the effective defence of the United Kingdom itself. A comprehensive air defence capability will be essential, although with a smaller fighter force than had been planned. The UK fighter force would be held at seven squadrons of air-defence Tornados, supplemented by armed Hawks, and the remaining two Phantom squadrons would be withdrawn. We plan to retain at about present levels our home defence forces and our capability to deal with hostile

mine-laying in home waters. We shall sustain our contribution in Northern Ireland. For as long as they are needed, we will provide forces in the Falklands, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Belize and — until 1997 — Hong Kong.

We will continue to deploy forces in Germany alongside our German and other allies. We envisage that our stationed forces could be roughly half their present strength. When reinforced from the UK, our army contribution could comprise of two divisions, rather than four as at present.

We expect to reduce the RAF presence in Germany from four bases to two. We envisage retaining Harrier and helicopter forces there.

As Germany takes on the air-policing responsibility for its territory, we would envisage phasing out our air defence contribution. We envisage maintaining six squadrons of Tornado aircraft in Germany and the UK with nuclear and conventional roles in Europe. The two variants of Tornado will provide the backbone of the future Royal Air Force. Aircraft not deployed in peacetime will be retained for use should we need to build back up our capability.

In view of Chancellor Kohl's request that troops of the three Western powers should stay in Berlin as long as Soviet forces are in the present GDR, we envisage continuing to contribute, including

an RAF contingent. We intend to retain an amphibious capability in the longer term, whose roles include reinforcement of Nato's northern region. We shall also maintain an air contribution to the defence of the northern region; but we are looking again at the future requirement for the United Kingdom mobile force.

We need to take account of the decline in the size of the Soviet navy but also of its modernisation. We propose to maintain three carriers, update their Sea Harrier aircraft, and proceed with the EH101 helicopter programme. I would envisage a future destroyer/frigate force of around 40 ships. The reduction would be achieved by paying off older, less-capable ships. In addition to Trident, we envisage a future submarine force of about 16 boats of which three-quarters would be nuclear-powered. We see the Buccaneer force in the anti-ship role being replaced by dual-capable Tornados redeployed from Germany and re-equipped with Sea Eagle missiles. There would be a small reduction in Nimrod numbers. A capability for other contingencies would be provided by establishing a strategic reserve division bringing together amphibious, parachute, air mobile and armoured formations.

Work remains to be done on detailed force structures and on changes in the support area, where we will be looking for substantial savings, before we can clarify the implications for individual units. We envisage in broad terms by the mid-1990s a regular army of around 120,000, Royal Navy Marines of around 60,000 and a Royal Air Force of around 75,000. The overall reduction in regular service manpower would be around 18 per cent; we expect our civilian numbers to be similarly reduced. The volunteer reserves will continue to play a key role.

There will now be further work on the detailed implications of these broad proposals. Their cost will, of course, be within the expenditure plans published in the last public expenditure white paper. Revised figures for defence expenditure will be announced in the Chancellor's autumn statement. In respect of the current year the House is aware that I am taking steps to constrain spending within the agreed provision. Announcements have been made on aircraft. We shall be easing back on army recruiting and retiring early several ships and submarines, and making some other short-term changes to the programme.

The main changes for British forces

ARMY: British Army of the Rhine reduced from four to two divisions. 55,000 manpower halved. No change in 100,000 regular-reserve personnel designated for the defence of Britain.
RAF: Manpower cut from 89,000 to 75,000. In Britain, Tornado F3 squadrons increased from six to seven. Two Phantom squadrons disbanded. In Germany, bases cut from four to two and squadrons from fifteen to nine. Four Tornado fighter-bomber squadrons and two Phantom squadrons disbanded. Three British-based Tornado squadrons designated for the defence of Europe cut to two.
ROYAL NAVY-ROYAL MARINES: Manpower

reduced by 3,000 to 60,000. Nuclear and diesel-powered submarines cut to 16 and frigate-destroyer fleet to shrink from 48 to 40. The two Buccaneer maritime strike aircraft to be replaced with Tornados redeployed from Germany. Three aircraft carriers to be retained and their Sea Harriers updated. Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft reduced by 15 per cent. The two amphibious assault ships retained.
NUCLEAR DETERRENT: The four-submarine Trident force will go ahead.

OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS: Britain will continue to provide forces in the Falklands, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Belize, and in Hong Kong until 1997.

Military research cash reduced by £200 million

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR

FUNDING for research and development by the defence ministry fell by £200 million last year, according to a government report published yesterday. The reduced spending is a result of decisions taken long before changes in Eastern Europe prompted the present military review.

The eighth Annual Review of Research and Development, published by the Cabinet Office, shows that the defence ministry still spends more than any other department on research, accounting for more than £2 billion last year. The decline in military work was partially offset by an extra £100 million spent on university and academic science work. This received a total of £1.5 billion, allocated by the

research councils and the Universities Funding Council. The government spends more than £4.5 billion a year, divided between defence research, contracts issued by other civil departments, and universities and other academic science centres. A further £4.8 billion a year comes from industry coffers.

The annual review is a five-year snap-shot which looks at spending during the past two years and planned expenditure for the next three years.

The latest report shows that Britain has slipped to fifth place in the patenting league table behind France, Germany, the United States and Japan. Patenting is generally recognised as the test of success in applying the results of research. The study shows

that drugs and bio-engineering are the only sectors of technology in which patenting has not declined in relation to the progress made by Britain's competitors.

The government has, however, made some progress in its aim to encourage more research in industry, which has increased its own spending by 10 per cent and received a matching sum in collaborative projects supported by the government.

● The Universities Funding Council will spend £10 million to help create a world-class centre in oceanography at Southampton, it was announced yesterday. The Centre for Deep Sea Oceanography will open in 1994 at an estimated cost of £43 million.

Explorer triumphs in libel adventure

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE explorer Sir Ranulph Twissleton-Wykeham-Fiennes emerged from the High Court's steamy libel jungle yesterday with £100,000 in damages.

The man described by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's greatest living explorer had complained that a nasty, mean-minded and spiteful article in a Canadian magazine, *Maclean's*, dismissed his exploits as having achieved nothing of historical or scientific value.

The jury took no more than 40 minutes to decide that the explorer had been libelled by an article in *Maclean's* in April 1988 that stated that "Prince Charles always supports him, claiming great results for British exports, but no-one has ever been able to demonstrate that any scientific or historical

benefits have resulted". The damages, and legal costs estimated to be £75,000, were awarded against the magazine's editor, Kevin Doyle, a journalist. Allan Fotheringham, who wrote the article, and the UK publishers Maclean Hunter, who denied that the words bore any defamatory meaning.

His wife Virginia, a companion on many of his expeditions, said afterwards: "The damages are astonishingly high. We never expected anything like that."

Summing up, the senior libel judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, said that the article read as a whole may have portrayed Sir Ranulph "as an upper class twit, not a real explorer, but a bumbling playboy".

HIV death claim

The parents of a teenage haemophiliac who died from HIV-related illness due to contaminated blood products have asked William Reid, the ombudsman, to intervene in their quest for compensation from the government (Thomson Prentice writes).

The Haemophilia Society and Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, are supporting the appeal by Jed and Joan Hillary, of Stockport, Cheshire, whose son Gerald died last November, aged 16.

Drug charge

Two Britons accused of trying to smuggle 870g of cocaine out of Peru have gone on trial. Brian Tristram and John Boxhall, both of London, who were arrested in December 1988 at Lima's international airport, face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Plans cost more

The cost of applying for planning permission is to be increased by 20 per cent from November, Michael Spicer, the planning minister, said yesterday. The cost of an application to build a new house will rise to £92 while that for an extension will be £46.

Toxic cloud

Hundreds of people were temporarily evacuated from their homes yesterday after 1,000 gallons of methyl chloride leaked from a burning chemical factory in Sturbridge, Birmingham, producing a toxic cloud. Twelve people were treated for irritation before the cloud dispersed.

Free-range call

A petition, signed by 6,000 people who support the use of free-range eggs, was delivered to the agriculture ministry yesterday urging the government to make salmonella testing requirements less burdensome for small poultry farmers.

Rushdie video

Thousands of pirate copies of the film *International Guerrillas*, showing the fictional death of the author Salman Rushdie, are reported to have flooded Birmingham's video market. Illegal copies of the banned film are for hire at £5.

Mascot dies

The Royal Regiment of Wales was in mourning yesterday after the death of its mascot, Dewi the goat. Dewi made hundreds of appearances for the regiment's third battalion.

Oldest man dies

Sam Crabbe, Britain's oldest man, has died at the age of 109, six weeks after taking over the title. Mr Crabbe, of Cadgwith, Cornwall, died after being admitted to hospital with a chest infection.

Driver crushed

A driver was killed when a road roller fell off the back of a lorry and crushed his car at Langloft, Lincolnshire.

Gorbachev acts to quell armed bands in restive republics

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has declared war on the armed bands that have effectively taken over some parts of the Soviet Union, particularly in the Transcaucasus.

In a presidential decree issued yesterday, the Soviet leader instructed all unauthorised armed units on Soviet territory to disband within 15 days and surrender their weapons and supplies.

The decree serves warning that the interior ministry will use its own troops, or in exceptional cases regular army detachments, against groups deemed to pose a threat to the safety of the population or the security of the state.

The instruction appears to be directed primarily against armed bands that have been operating in the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Their activity was sparked off initially by the dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is officially administered by Azerbaijan but populated mainly by

Armenians. In recent months, however, the armed groups have turned their attention to Soviet troops sent to keep the peace.

Unofficial reports from Armenia — which has been closed to foreign journalists based in Moscow for several months — indicate that something akin to a guerrilla war is in progress between well-armed Armenian partisans and regular Soviet troops.

Last week it was reported from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, that district offices of the interior ministry and police stations had been attacked by bands in search of weapons. The report described a late-night attack on a police arsenal in the town of Kirovakan, one of the places damaged in the 1988 earthquake. Troops who had tried to defend the building had been attacked with automatic weapons and a junior officer had been killed.

The army newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, also reported that a "large group of

extremists" had carried out an armed attack on a Soviet army detachment only 12 miles from Yerevan. They had cut all telephone links and seized 37 automatic weapons and 870 rounds of ammunition, as well as hand-grenades.

The article concluded by asking "Who will these weapons be used against and when will the law be enforced?"

In a commentary the army newspaper yesterday said that more than six different armed groupings were operating in Armenia, some of them openly calling themselves "armies".

It claimed that there had been more than 200 attacks on Soviet military personnel in the republic since the beginning of the year, resulting in the loss of more than 2,000 guns, but only a small number of the attackers had been caught and brought to trial.

A senior official of the Armenian judiciary was quoted as saying that the reason why so few had been brought to justice was that "there are no witnesses".

He added: "People are afraid to testify. The law and order enforcement agencies have lost control."

Armenian groups claim that their activity is inspired by two considerations: a desire to "see justice done" in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was returned to the control of Azerbaijan last summer after a period of ineffectual direct rule from Moscow, and the need to protect the safety of the Armenian population which, they claim, the Soviet authorities have not been able to guarantee.

Armenians cite the anti-Armenian pogroms in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait and the continuing Azerbaijani blockade of the rail link with Armenia, which has caused power shortages and hindered earthquake relief and reconstruction work, as examples of how the central authorities have failed the Armenian population.

The general nature of yesterday's presidential decree suggests that it could also be intended as a pre-emptive measure in case the Baltic republics and the Ukraine move to recruit their own armed forces.

Shortly after Lithuania declared independence, posters were displayed calling for volunteers to defend the new state, and the declaration of sovereignty passed recently by the Ukrainian parliament provides for the republic's own army.

Although Armenia and possibly other areas of the Soviet Union are clearly out of control, it is unclear why Mr Gorbachev has decided to issue a presidential decree authorising action which the leadership of any country would be empowered to take.

The decree will not make it easier for the army or the interior ministry to take action in areas where they will be heavily outnumbered and where public support is likely to be negligible.

Failure to take action, or even defeat, will now only make the central leadership look even weaker.

There are potential problems with firearms even in those regions of the country which have been relatively calm. The incidence of armed robbery has increased dramatically in the past two years and unauthorised ownership of weapons is widespread.

Soviet television recently showed a factory producing hunting rifles which was converting a proportion of its output into machineguns. These were then sold on the black market for vodka.

Debts cleared, page 25

De Mazière calls off Kohl meeting

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

WITH only a day's notice, Lothar de Mazière, the East German prime minister, has cancelled his visit to Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, as the difficulties in his country's coalition government increase. Herr de Mazière was to have seen Herr Kohl at his Austrian holiday home at Wolfsegg today to discuss the situation. He called off the meeting saying that he was "needed at home in these difficult days".

The East German leader did fly to Austria yesterday for a meeting with industrialists but returned last night for today's emergency sitting of the Christian Democrat (CDU) and Social Democrat (SPD) factions. A government spokesman denied that any snub was intended to Herr Kohl.

Herr Kohl had been expected to call the East German CDU to order in his meetings with Herr de Mazière and telephoned him on Tuesday to discuss the disagreement over the date of unification and the arrangements for the first pan-German elections.

Herr de Mazière yesterday offered the SPD more talks in the presence of constitutional experts in an attempt to end the stalemate, but these were rejected. The SPD will decide by the end of the week whether to leave the coalition as the Liberal party did on Tuesday. The two Liberal party ministers failed to attend the

weekly cabinet meeting yesterday and resigned.

The quarrel now threatens to split the East German CDU. Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, the parliamentary Speaker, who voted against Herr de Mazière on the disputed issues, called on the coalition parties to show greater readiness to compromise. "We must not risk endangering our newly gained democratic and political freedoms by this argument," she said.

Herr Kohl is known to be concerned that the disagreement, which turns on the twin issues of East German sovereignty in the run-up to unification and which party will gain electoral advantage from its timing, will interrupt the preparations for unification or even delay it.

Herr de Mazière, a reserved figure when he came to power in March, has developed into a confident, stubborn leader less malleable than his sister party in Bonn thought he would be. He has said that setting a date for unity before the elections will deprive East German negotiators of the bargaining power to secure favourable terms of unity.

Asked if the interests of East Germany could not be left in the hands of the West German Chancellor, he said: "Someone who has not lived here under 40 years of communism cannot understand all of the country's problems."



Pole position: Contestants preparing for the world pole-sitting competition in The Netherlands. They must stay up for 100 hours to have a hope of winning

Havel attacks West's boycott of Waldheim

FROM BRENDA FOWLER IN SALZBURG

DISPLAYING his characteristic nerve for confronting issues more as a philosopher than a politician, President Havel of Czechoslovakia has criticised the unspoken "boycott" by Western leaders of Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian president, calling it "a stereotype, a game".

"I do not want to say that this posture did not originally have an ethical basis, and an ethical intensity — of course it did — but through its ritualisation it is made empty and loses its original moral content and becomes a cliché. And there is not an ounce of moral courage in that, but only cold-blooded calculation: if one does not go, then the other does not go. They are

afraid of each other. What is moral in that?" said Mr Havel in an interview published yesterday in the *Salzburger Nachrichten*.

Mr Havel's comments came one day before he is scheduled to meet the Austrian president at the opening of the Salzburg Festival.

Although President Havel did not urge a lifting of the "boycott", he seemed to acknowledge that he was taking a certain risk by speaking out on the subject.

"If I go against a certain fashion, conscious of all the risks that it entails, then that can be for the political good, but at the same time contain an element of moral courage — going against the stream."

A USUALLY quiet corner of a Moscow cemetery was turned into a tumult of flowers and music yesterday as thousands paid homage to the memory of a ballad singer who is venerated as the spirit of his age. Vladimir Vysotsky was aged only 43 when he died ten years ago yesterday. Hard living, hard drinking and the political exigencies of life in Brezhnev's Soviet Union cut short his life.

Yet he was a popular hero. His acerbic and often bawdy songs were repeated at gatherings of young people all over the Soviet Union. Recordings of his late-night performances at the Taganka theatre in Moscow were passed from hand to hand. And when he died, the word went around the country within hours.

In July 1980, the Moscow Olympics were in full swing and the city was in effect closed. Identity papers were checked at all entry points; car traffic was stopped at the outer ring-road, and police patrolled the streets. When Vysotsky was carried to Vaganovskoe cemetery, however, hundreds of thousands of people followed in what has become a legendary display of popular feeling.

Yesterday people again came from all over the Soviet Union to lay their

flowers and stand for a few seconds at his grave. Rain was no deterrent. The patient queue stretched for half a mile.

The flowers people carried were among the most expensive: gladioli, dahlias and roses. An elderly woman brought an enormous wreath and a guitar to lay there. Some young people carried texts of favourite songs and tucked them between the bouquets. Candles stayed lit despite the rain.

A memorial shrine set up on the opposite side of the road included a book for tributes. "Thank you, Vladimir! I remember you," read one. Tver is the old Russian name for the city northwest of Moscow now known as Kalinin. The city council recently asked that the old name be restored.

The inscription captured the essence of Vysotsky's appeal: Russians felt that he dared to express what they had neither the ability nor the courage to do. His ballads, sung in a rasping voice to his own guitar accompaniment, told of Communist party privileges, of the shopping queues, and of the small humiliations suffered by ordinary people. They ridiculed the discrepancy between the promised "bright future" and the grim reality.

"He told things how they were," said

one middle-aged woman at the cemetery yesterday. And, she might have added, at a time when that was forbidden. Over the past four years, Vysotsky has been gradually rehabilitated and claimed by the Soviet establishment. Books of his songs, the expurgated versions, have been published. Records and cassettes are officially produced and sold. Concerts and musical tributes are staged, using pictures and recordings donated by, among others, the KGB archive.

Yesterday the official press published its own tributes. The Communist party's youth paper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, opened its back-page article by asking: "Can you live by your conscience if the very structure of society has none?" In the Gorbachev era, Vysotsky is regarded as one of a select pantheon which includes Andrei Sakharov and several émigré writers (but not yet Alexander Solzhenitsyn) who were guardians of the people's conscience at a time when conscience did not count.

Meanwhile, at the cemetery people listened to renditions of his songs by faithful imitators. The rough voice, the angry tone, the biting words, were all there. But the sense of risk and rebellion which gave Vysotsky his claim to posterity has gone.



Burning grief: an elderly man, with his grand-daughter, weeping amid the ruins of his home in Uzgen, Soviet Kirghizia, burnt in ethnic unrest over land allocation

Marshall Plan funds for East Germany

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has given Bonn the go-ahead for a fivefold increase in aid sent to East Germany from the Marshall Plan funds, originally used to rebuild Europe after the Second World War.

Some DM 6 billion (£2.3 billion) will be available in subsidised loans to East Germany this year for pollution control, to boost tourism and to promote small and medium-sized businesses. In May, West Germany announced that DM 1.9 million (£645,000) of Marshall aid was available, but the flood of applications from the East was so large Bonn asked for a big rise in the amount to cope.

Marshall aid was crucial in rebuilding the shattered West German economy after the war. But when the need subsidised Bonn kept the fund going, mostly from the repayment of loans, as a vehicle for regional development, environmental protection and the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses.

US and EC no nearer settling farm dispute

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

AFTER two days of critical talks in Geneva, the United States and the European Community appear hardly any closer to settling their dispute over farm subsidies.

They have agreed to use a compromise paper as a means of intensifying negotiations. But the subject of how and how fast to cut subsidies to farmers worldwide have been delayed till late August, further threatening the entire round of global trade liberalisation measures under way in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, which is due to be concluded in December.

The EC fears massive social

upheaval if the subsidies to many of its 11 million farmers are cut. The US, with just two million people working on the land, argues that farms should be forced like industry to survive in the market place.

Despite the EC agreement to use the compromise drawn up by Aart de Zeeuw, Gatt chief farm negotiator, as a basis for talks, it still rejects key details within it. Ray MacSharry, EC farm commissioner, said: "The Community has made it very clear that Mr de Zeeuw's proposals for sharp reductions on export assistance and for specific commitments on export re-funds are unacceptable."

Most EC countries, except Britain, already insist on minimum rest periods, usually longer than the commission's proposals.

Mrs Papandreu will introduce her plans under majority voting, so that Britain cannot alone veto them. Denmark also opposes commission legislation in this field, but will be appeased by the acceptance of union agreements.

Britain insisted yesterday that its night and shift workers were properly covered under existing health and safety laws. "We recognise that the commission has taken some account of our concerns, but we believe that the proposed controls would be unnecessary and direct attention from higher priorities such as job creation," said a spokesman in Brussels.

Moving of US gas weapons inspires alarm

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

A MULTI-MILLION dollar operation to destroy chemical weapons, capable of wiping out three times the world's population, starts from the American security base at Clausen, near Kaiserslautern, this morning despite widespread local opposition.

Even though three years' planning have gone into the \$46 million (£25 million) operation, citizens' action groups and the governments of at least two Länder (states), through which the lethal load must pass on its way to eventual destruction on a Pacific atoll, are complaining that security is inadequate.

They say the shells should stay put until better methods of destroying them are developed. Unlike modern chemical weapons, which contain two elements that only become dangerous when mixed, these shells contain the chemical already mixed. A slight crack in a casing could release enough to kill thousands.

For political and weather reasons, the United States wants to move the shells as soon as possible for eventual destruction at Johnston atoll, 700 miles south of Hawaii.

The political reason is to show a willingness to comply with the agreement between President Bush and President Gorbachev this year, to cut stockpiles to 5,000 tonnes by 2002 and ultimately eliminate chemical weapons.

The weather reason is the unpredictability of the North Sea in winter. Two adapted US Navy ships will transport the shells, but they do not want to sail as winter sets in, when the risk of cargo coming loose in a storm would be greater.

"Operation Lindworm", named after a mythical, endless snake-like beast, is proceeding despite threats — by environmentalists to block the route, by state governments to use the courts to delay, or prevent shipment across their territory, and by dock workers to hinder shipment.

Last week the court in Cologne threw out an attempt by 12 residents on the route to ban the shipment, or "death convoy" as protesters call it, on the ground that it was unsafe. The court accepted that security for carrying the defused shells containing 435 tonnes of Sarin and VX nerve gas was adequate.

This has cleared the way for the first five-mile convoy of 80 vehicles to make the 30-mile journey from Clausen to another American base at Miesau, where the shells will be stored until all 102,000 have been collected, ready for the 300 miles to the North Sea port of Norderham by train.

Only 20 vehicles will be carrying the airtight steel containers loaded with the shells, which have also had their propellant removed. The rest will include armoured vehicles, decontamination units and transport for firemen.

doctors and troops guarding the convoy.

The route, which will be revealed at the last minute to the carefully picked army drivers, will take two-and-a-half hours, travelling at a maximum speed of 40mph on motorways. Roads and service areas will be closed as the convoy passes and police patrols will prevent anybody overtaking it. Thirty convoys will move the shells. They will set out every weekday until the transfer is completed at the end of August.

The 1,200 personnel involved will be equipped with suits containing an automatic injector which fires atopropin into the thigh to counter the effects of the chemical if there is a leak.

Once at Miesau, the shells are to be loaded on trains to the North Sea via one of two routes. Both converge at Bremen, where the city state is taking legal action against the transit. Possible delays are beginning to alarm the state of Lower Saxony, where the port is situated.

Brando bid to raise \$5m bail

New York — Marlon Brando yesterday struggled to raise \$5 million (£2.8 million) in bail for Christian Brando, his eldest son, who is accused of murdering his half-sister's lover (Charles Bremner writes).

The actor put up his estate as half of the \$10 million bail set on Tuesday. His lawyers were contacting bankers and friends to raise the additional bail, which is one of the highest in US history. The murder has engrossed Hollywood and the celebrity-watching industry.

US sailor faces court martial

Rota, Spain — The US Navy has begun a court martial at its naval base in southern Spain of a lieutenant accused of raping a woman officer on board ship, Lieutenant Robin Brown, who faces life imprisonment, is being defended by a woman officer.

He is alleged to have raped the officer in her cabin on the US ammunition ship *Suriachi* on April 4 when the ship was in Cartagena. (Reuter)

Soviet soldiers walk to the West

Hanover — For the first time since the border between the two Germanys was effectively abolished this month, three Soviet soldiers have simply walked across the border to the West.

Interior ministry officials said two of three soldiers have requested political asylum in West Germany. (AFP)

Romania takes first step to privatisation

FROM CATHERINE ADAMS IN BUCHAREST

THE Romanian Senate has unanimously passed the first part of the historic privatisation bill which puts 20 per cent of vital state-owned enterprises into the hands of the workers.

After the vote Adrian Severin, the minister for liaison with parliament, declared the move "an extremely important and radical step on the way to reforms". He said: "We hope it is accepted by the population and that it increases their efforts to work."

The law is at odds with the previous platform of the National Salvation Front, which won a landslide in the May elections with a policy of slow transition to privatisation. A policy of swift reforms was advocated by the opposition parties and dreaded by a population which feared redundancies would follow the privatisation of state-owned enterprises.

Petre Roman, the prime minister, said: "I am glad if our laws incorporate the views of the opposition parties." The law, which is expected to be passed within a week, reverses the policy of the past 42 years and comes just seven months after the revolution

which toppled Ceausescu's communist regime.

It is thought that the law is being pushed through parliament quickly to avert grievances among the workforce over wages and conditions. The bill is being heard simultaneously in the Chamber of Deputies and amendments from both houses are being transmitted daily via an ad hoc committee. Both houses voted to postpone their summer recesses in order to pass the legislation.

The law applies to "industries of strategic importance", such as armaments, railways, energy, telecommunications and mining. Workers will automatically be issued with a voucher at a fixed price, interchangeable between enterprises, which can be converted into a share after a year. Anyone aged over 18 with five years' working experience will be eligible, apart from those with a criminal record for "moral or financial crimes".

Mr Severin said: "The process of privatisation is now unstoppable. A part of the state capital will be transferred free of charge in a complete reversal of the nationalisation of 1948."

ALGARVE PROPERTY...?

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Superpowers near deal on formula for Kabul peace

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration believes it is within sight of a deal with Moscow that could end the decade-long war in Afghanistan between the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul and US-supported Mujahedin rebels.

Officials are optimistic that an agreement-in-principle will be concluded next week when James Baker, the US Secretary of State, meets Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, in Irkutsk, Siberia, for two days of talks on regional matters.

The administration believes that compromise proposals made recently by Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, now represent official Soviet policy, and it views these as being an acceptable basis for a settlement.

The one long-standing disagreement between the superpowers has been the future role of President Najibullah of Afghanistan. The putative agreement would end all superpower arms shipments to Afghanistan and create an interim authority to prepare for and supervise free elections.

The US has dropped its early insistence that Dr Najibullah be barred from standing in these elections. And bowing to US demands that he should not have the advantages of incumbency, Moscow is said to be proposing that during the pre-election period he keep the symbolic post of president but yield control to the interim authority of the secret police, and the defence, interior and information ministries.

"There is a feeling that there is real movement, that the US and Soviet Union are really seriously discussing how to extricate themselves from Afghanistan," an administration official said yesterday. But he cautioned that a superpower agreement alone would not bring peace.

Dr Najibullah's statements indicate that he would go along with such a deal, but the Mujahedin may resist any agreement that gives him a continuing role of any sort. Neighbouring nations such as Pakistan, which has supported the rebels and hoped for a pliant government in Kabul, may also object.

The agreement contains many awkward details to be worked out, such as timetables and who would sit on the interim authority. Officials here say Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze may call in the United Nations, pledging their full support for its efforts to achieve peace and promising to exert maximum pressure on their respective clients in Afghanistan.

In a separate development this week, the Senate select committee on intelligence voted to reduce sharply covert US aid to the Mujahedin, cutting roughly \$100 million (\$549 million) from the estimated \$300 million given last year. The move, although far from final, reflected growing congressional frustration at the continued infighting among the rebel groups and the non-realisation of the administration's contention that the Mujahedin would swiftly overthrow the Kabul regime following the Soviet military withdrawal in February 1989.

Moscow is under equal pressure to end the war. It is currently giving Kabul around \$300 million a month in economic and military aid, and the conflict is a barrier to further improvement of its relations with the United States and the West.

Mr Baker said recently that there was only a "very, very narrow difference" remaining between Washington and Moscow on Afghanistan. The unspoken fear here, however, is that elections in Afghanistan, if and when they are held, might result in Dr Najibullah being returned to power.

Dr Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is widely detested but, as one US official said, "it is one of the very few organised entities in that fractious country and cannot be written off".

● MOSCOW: The Afghan embassy in Moscow said yesterday it could not confirm a US television report that the United States and the Soviet Union would announce agreement on a ceasefire in Afghanistan's civil war.

ABC television, quoting Western diplomatic sources in Moscow, said an immediate ceasefire would be announced next week by Mr Baker, the Secretary of State, and Mr Shevardnadze when they meet.

"We cannot confirm the report. We haven't been informed of such a ceasefire arrangement between Moscow and Washington. All we can say is that, for our part, we are ready for a ceasefire at any point," an Afghan embassy official said.

A spokesman for the US embassy said he did not believe any such comments had come from the American mission.

ABC said that under the agreement the US would stop sending arms to anti-government rebels and the Soviet Union would stop supplying the Kabul government.



Healing hands: a Liberian girl aged 11, wounded in fighting between government and rebel forces, receiving treatment in Monrovia from a Liberian doctor and a Belgian doctor with Médecins sans Frontières

China praises 'friendly gestures' by Britain

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

LI PENG, the Chinese prime minister, yesterday warmly greeted Francis Maude and said that China highly valued "the recent friendly gestures" made by Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister.

Mr Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office who was moved to the Treasury in the recent cabinet shuffle, is the first European Community minister to visit China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in June last year which led to an EC ban on high-level visits.

Mr Maude's talks with Mr Li yesterday broke the deadlock in bilateral relations which had virtually halted progress in the complex discussions on Hong Kong, which will come under Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Mr Maude said, however, he had faced the Chinese side with "fairly tough talking on Hong Kong and on human rights", and that he had not come to Peking "with a bundle of concessions".

British sources said it was unlikely that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would visit China this year.

After their talks, Mr Maude claimed he and Mr Li had made progress on the two issues which have been bedevilling Britain's policy on Hong Kong. He said that Mr

Li's criticisms of British legislation to grant passports to 250,000 Hong Kong citizens and of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights, both of which China resents, had been "relatively muted". He said that this was an "encouraging sign".

Mr Maude said there had been "not a trace of anger in this meeting from the Chinese side at all". Britain has been the butt of Chinese media attacks without replying in kind.

Mr Maude, however, expressed his displeasure at the attacks in the media and told Mr Li that there had been "too much venting of differences in public... we should try to resolve our differences in private".

Mr Maude described the meeting as very open and productive and said that, while it had produced no dramatic results, he had been able to explain Britain's policies on Hong Kong. Mr Li had "showed understanding of the case we had put".

China has in the past reacted furiously towards the nationality package and has also criticised the Bill of Rights, which enshrines human rights in Hong Kong law. Both pieces of legislation have been formulated to increase confidence in the colony but Peking sees them as eroding China's authority. Mr Maude

had not expected China to backtrack on its previous statements, but was hoping for a restrained reaction. In this regard, he appears to have achieved his objective.

However, diplomatic observers cautioned against premature optimism, given the complexities and sensitivities of the Hong Kong situation.

Mr Maude also said he had raised the issue of human rights with Mr Li, saying that Europe would like to see "further positive moves of the kind we have seen in the past few months", such as the freeing of detainees, the lifting of martial law in Peking and Tibet, and allowing Fang Lizhi, the dissident astrophysicist, to go abroad. If Peking took further such steps, Europe could move towards relaxing sanctions, Mr Maude said. On Tuesday, he had implied that London believed the time had come to resume soft loans to China.

The Chinese response to the human rights request is not clear. Peking is normally infuriated by such requests, claiming that they amount to interference in its domestic affairs. The observers believe Mr Li simply tolerated the request as a price to pay for improved relations with Britain and the EC.



Diplomatic thaw: Francis Maude being welcomed by Li Peng in Peking yesterday

Kaunda to free political detainees

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Kaunda, in what he called a demonstration of the "unleashing of the forces of love", yesterday announced the release of political prisoners and his agreement to the re-registration of voters for Zambia's referendum on whether to keep the country a one-party state.

However, the insistence of campaigners for political pluralism on a new voters' roll - made on the grounds that "millions" of voters refused to register for previous elections under a one-party system - has given Dr Kaunda a firm reason to delay the referendum. He announced that the referendum would be held on August 13 next year, instead of October 17 this year, as originally scheduled, to allow the voters' roll to be updated.

He said the new measures, which included lifting the month-old dusk-to-dawn curfew in Lusaka, the capital, were made not from "extreme weakness, but from extreme strength".

But observers believe that the new referendum date gives Dr Kaunda and his ruling United National Independence Party a welcome breathing space in which to attempt to restore their credibility.

Yesterday's measures and the president's softened image are seen as a result of the riots over food prices last month that turned into overtly anti-Kaunda violence and the quixotic "coup" on June 30.

Dr Kaunda's apparent magnanimity will lead to the release of two people who have become heroes in the eyes of many Zambians - Lieutenant Mwambwe Echembe, who made the bizarre broadcast on national radio on June 30 announcing the president had been overthrown, and Lieutenant-General Christian Tembo, the former commander of the army, who was in the middle of a treason trial and has been in detention since September 1988, when he was arrested with several others on allegations of having plotted Dr Kaunda's overthrow.

Before his arrest, General Tembo was scarcely known, but detailed reporting of the evidence in his trial - including claims that Dr Kaunda had \$5 billion (£2.75 billion) in Swiss banks - brought him to a prominence that had Zambians chanting his name during the coup attempt.

Also to be released is Edward Shamwari, a former judge of the Zambian High Court, who was jailed for life in 1980 on charges of plotting another coup, as well as three others with him, all of whom are now seen as valuable recruits to the campaign to restore multi-party democracy to Zambia after 17 years.

With them will be General Tembo's three former officer colleagues and an unknown number of Lieutenant Echembe's colleagues. Dr Kaunda also said that those arrested during the rioting in Lusaka would be freed.

He refused to say when the releases would take place.

● NAIROBI: The Kenya government yesterday freed three lawyers recently detained without charge in a drive against proponents of multi-party politics in Kenya, which is by law a one-party state.

An official in the president's office identified the three lawyers as: Githu Imanyara, John Khaminwa and Mohamed Ibrahim.

Still in detention are former cabinet ministers Charles Rubia and Kenneth Matiba, detained by police on July 4, and Raila Odinga, the son of Oginga Odinga, the former vice-president. (AP)

Japan aid may go to North Korea

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

JAPAN is considering paying compensation for its colonial occupation of North Korea to improve relations between the two countries now that Pyongyang has shown it is willing to be wooed.

This marks another bold diplomatic overture by Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, who has been mending fences and building bridges everywhere since he took office last autumn.

But even if Tokyo dips its hand in its pocket, as it did for Seoul in 1965, there will be a lot of haggling before it agrees to the 700 billion yen (£2.6 billion) that Pyongyang is apparently seeking, ten times what Japan gave in aid and loans to South Korea. Technically, the cash Tokyo gave to Seoul was supposed to clear its debt to the entire Korean peninsula.

Mr Kaifu yesterday hailed an invitation from North Korea for a September visit by members of Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats as a big step towards warmer ties. It will be the first visit to the communist North by a team from Japan's governing party. There are no diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The invitation was issued to a group of Japanese Socialist MPs who have just visited Pyongyang. The team will be led by Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister.

Tokyo is also encouraged by signs that North Korea has softened terms for the release of two Japanese seamen it has held for seven years. The sailors were arrested in North Korea in 1983 and given 15-year sentences for spying after a North Korean soldier defected to Japan by stowing away on their cargo boat.

Until now Pyongyang has demanded the return of the defector before releasing the seamen. But the Socialist MPs relayed a message from North Korea that the issue could be resolved as part of a general improvement in relations.

Refugees return to Afghanistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PESHAWAR

FOR the first time in a decade, some of the five million Afghan refugees are packing their possessions on old cars, trucks and vans and heading home to their war-ravaged country.

A trickle, growing by the day, has given Pakistan its first glimmer of hope that the burden of housing three million refugees - the other two million are in Iran - might start to ease.

But the procession of men, women and children is being fiercely opposed by fundamentalist Mujahedin groups and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which say that nobody should return until the jihad has established an Islamic government in Kabul.

Nevertheless, from Saturday nine official border points will be opened into Afghanistan, manned by officials of the Pakistan government and the United Nations, which are quietly encouraging the refugees' return. Each family will be given 3,300 rupees (£90), help with transportation and initial resettlement costs, and a three-month wheat ration of 660 lb.

Nobody knows how many people will take up the offer. Most will certainly choose to stay behind in the bleak refugee camps, given the risks of returning to a land that is being ruthlessly carved up into rural fiefdoms, each acutely suspicious of its neighbour and all heavily armed.

The repatriation programme will be launched initially in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province. The Pakistan government said it would allow the refugees to take all their household goods, personal belongings and food. They would be required to

hand in their ration cards, officially ending Pakistan's involvement with them.

Inside Afghanistan, UN officials have established a presence in areas where the refugees are most likely to settle, such as Herat and Kandahar. Western aid workers will be on hand to help with rebuilding homes, digging irrigation canals, planting crops and clearing minefields.

The Pakistani government, fearing fundamentalist Mujahedin groups will attempt to stop the refugees forcibly, has ordered security forces to escort people to the frontier. After that, the families could be in danger if the Mujahedin seek to drive them back. The Peshawar-based Afghan Interim Government, made up of Mujahedin organisations, condemned the programme as illegal.

Officials involved in the project said the aim was to assist the "spontaneous and voluntary repatriation which is already taking place". There was no question of forcing people to leave. The programme would be reviewed in three months.

The most optimistic estimate is that several hundred thousand refugees could leave this year. Most officials believe the figure will be much lower. Some refugees in Iran are also believed to be returning.

The refugees' hopes of going home rose this year because many Mujahedin leaders have negotiated peace deals with the Kabul government, often in return for money and arms.

But even in these areas deadly conflict between rebel groups remains. Returning refugees also face the danger of heavily armed bandits who roam the countryside.

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هكزامن التجميل

Poodle noodles, the snack for dogs with everything

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

Japanese dogs got used long ago to dating services, to weddings at which they exchange collars, to pets-only hot spring resorts where they can soak away their aches, to take-away food, to bikinis, to yoga, and even to nappies. But isn't serving egg noodles in chicken soup to a peckish Tokyo spaniel taking anthropomorphism a little too far?

The Japanese are not alone in treating their poodles as if they were human beings. Some dog owners in England give their labradors tea and biscuits at around 4 pm. Lucky terriers in France are slipped foie gras and croissants now and then. Dogs play along by learning to bark in their owners' tongue. "Bow wow" in English turns into "wan wan" in Japanese.

Now the Japanese have decided that their dogs can no longer live without instant pot noodles, the favourite home snack for Japanese people who cannot get to one of the noodle shops that dot every side street. The noodles are cooked by steeping them in boiling water and then pouring in a pouch of seasoning. A pot sells for about

£1.20, for some reason triple the price of the made-for-humans version. The product has been on the market for only two months, but its makers are so pleased with the response that they are planning pet frien noodles and cat noodles. The noodles don't come with doggie chopsticks. Happily, slurping your noodles, even with help from chopsticks, is standard in Japan.

For dogs who prefer something a little more chic on Saturday night than noodles there is still the Sogo department store in Yokohama, which will rustle up a gourmet take-away tray of steak, ham, sausages, cheese and white chocolate for about £50. If they're in need of a break there is the Kinugawa International Hotel in the spa resort of Kinugawa, north of Tokyo. It has a pets-only hot spring where overstressed dogs and cats can peel off their designer jumpers, have a soak, peck at a light supper of boiled chicken and then sleep it off on a pet-size futon.

The only trouble with fashionable Kinugawa is that it can sometimes become a bit of a

catwalk as dogs show off their latest outfits. A favourite shopping place is Adachiya, a pet fashion boutique in Tokyo that can provide everything from pet bikinis and kimonos to a £5,000 mink coat. For dogs who draw the line at wearing fur, Mitsukoshi, the posh Tokyo department store, stocks fake Burberry raincoats. With the rainy season in full swing, business is brisk. Prices go up to about £60, depending on size. Team it with a casual Snoopy T-shirt, also from Mitsukoshi, only £20. But avoid weekends. Mitsukoshi says the crush can be awful, especially when the new season's lines arrive.

Of course, everything has a price. All this fancy food is producing some fancy illnesses. Pampered dogs in Japan are suffering from gum diseases because they no longer chew enough bones to clean their teeth. More and more owners are taking their pets to vets to have the plaque scraped off. In between visits to the surgery they brush their dog's teeth every day with one of a range of dog toothbrushes that sell for about £4 each.

"I have learned my lesson,"

Fussyo Sekine told the *Asahi* newspaper after hearing that her dog, Riki, was a victim of pyorrhea alveolaris. "I will brush Riki's teeth diligently from now on." Flab is also becoming a bit of a problem, but not so much of a problem now that the Japan Training School has arrived to provide jogging machines and yoga classes for dogs that can't resist an extra after-dinner mint.

Of course gum disease can lead to complications, and some pooches get so fat they pop the buttons on their tuxedos and can move no more. Pet funerals have also become big business.

There are now 80 pet cemeteries in Japan. Some of them charge up to £5,000 for a one-square-yard grave. More convenient is the doorstep facility provided by the Pet Angel Service. A woman dressed in a pink jumpsuit pops your dead loved one in an incinerator in the back of her Jerry, you place some flowers on a little pink altar, she plays a tape of a shrill woman's voice that says "think you for taking care of me up 'till now", and then whoosh. You get to keep the ashes.



But life isn't all fun. Designer dogs soon realise that they are additions to a certain lifestyle rather than mere pets. If those lifestyles are in Tokyo they can be rather cramped, which is why the sort of dogs that fit into a coat pocket or bicycle basket sell well here. Even so, with houses and flats slotted together so compactly, letting dogs be dogs can upset the neighbours. Some Japanese have their dogs' vocal cords cut.

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Britons lost

Teeth survey

Constitution

Chairman goes

Cubans leave

US deploys its forces to deter attack on Kuwait

From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON

AS AMERICAN warships continued hastily arranged military exercises in the Gulf yesterday, it emerged that Washington had also sent air force support planes from Europe to assist jet fighters of the United Arab Emirates and further deter Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Officials said the intensified military activity was designed to demonstrate American support for the small Gulf nations and to signal that the United States would, if necessary, use force to ensure the continued flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

"We are not getting into the Opec business," said one official, referring to disputes among Middle East oil producers about production quotas and price levels. "Our concern is free access to oil. We are making a modest move to indicate our stake."

Another said: "We are not going to war, but you are going to see exercises and you are going to see ships."

Of the four frigates, one destroyer and one command ship in the US Middle Eastern force, two are said to be deployed in the northern Gulf waters off Kuwait while the other four have taken up stations further south.

In addition, two US KC135 tankers and a C141 cargo plane carrying maintenance and support equipment flew out from West Germany. They are said to be conducting air-to-ground communications and refuelling exercises, the latter enhancing the ability of the UAE's Mirage fighters to conduct surveillance flights and to defend their off-shore oil installations against any Iraqi bombing raid.

These are said to be the first joint exercises openly undertaken between UAE and US forces, and the UAE reportedly asked for them over the weekend when the scale of the Iraqi threat became apparent.

In Washington, Iraq's latest missile-firing is exacerbating congressional distaste for a

nation which until two years ago the US was supporting in its war against Iran. Since then congressmen have been appalled by Baghdad's relentless military build-up, its drive to develop long-range missiles and nuclear weapons, its use of chemical weapons, its human rights abuses and the highly inflammatory comments of President Saddam Hussein towards Israel.

Several bills are before both houses of Congress seeking a range of sanctions against Iraq. The US still gives Iraq around \$800 million (£440 million) a year in commodity and import-export credits. A measure unanimously approved by the Senate banking committee last week would cut this assistance and ban the export to Iraq of any goods that could assist its military-industrial complex.

A similar measure has been passed by the Senate foreign relations committee. "There is a growing sentiment on Capitol Hill that something needs to be done... that we should, at the minimum, stop this assistance," said a Senate aide.

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates yesterday denied a US State Department report that the two countries were conducting joint military manoeuvres in the Gulf.

"There are no joint military manoeuvres or exercises between UAE and American military forces and all reports and comments to date on the matter are an unjustified exaggeration," an official spokesman quoted by the WAM news agency said.

But the UAE spokesman said the Emirates conducted routine military exercises at this time of year to improve their forces' capabilities.

He said the US announcement earlier this week that US forces were engaged in a small-scale exercise referred to a pre-arranged technical training programme unrelated to the current tensions.

Can Opec survive? page 10



Peace gesture: President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and President Mubarak embracing in Baghdad where the Egyptian leader had flown in an effort to ease Gulf tension

Damascus hostage pledge

From REUTER in DAMASCUS

GERALD Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, left for home yesterday with assurances from Syria that it is trying to obtain the release of the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, three of whom are Britons.

Mr Kaufman, who had talks with Abdel-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, and Farouk al-Shara, the country's foreign minister, described his visit as "fruitful and constructive", adding: "I found full understanding from Syrian

officials and I was promised that they will exert every effort possible to secure the release of hostages."

Syria, the main foreign power in Lebanon, maintains good ties with Iran and has in the past played a key role in obtaining the release of several hostages. Tehran backs the Hezbollah group, which is believed to be holding most of the hostages.

SIDON: Israel has reinforced its self-declared security zone in south Lebanon,

where Shia Muslim militias are fighting each other, security sources said yesterday. They said a column of about thirty Israeli military vehicles, including Merkava tanks and American-made M113 armoured personnel carriers, crossed into Lebanese territory late on Tuesday and took up positions in the security zone.

Israeli troops also brought 155mm and 175mm artillery batteries into the area, the sources said. (Reuters)

Experts believe Iraq will stop short of invasion

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE consensus among Middle East experts yesterday was that Iraq would not invade Kuwait, but could succeed in forcing it to cut oil production.

That view was reinforced by reports that President Saddam Hussein had told President Mubarak of Egypt that he had no plans to invade.

However, Sir Anthony Parsons, a former British ambassador to Iran, pointed out the experts had been wrong in 1980, when Baghdad began to threaten Tehran. "I was at the United Nations and from that vantage point we were very conscious of tension rising. The consensus was that it was sabre-rattling, but it turned out that it was not."

Iraq has always denied that it started the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, and it is true that there was provocation. However, Samir al-Khalil, an Iraqi author, says in his book, *Republic of Fear*, that President Saddam began planning in the spring of 1980 for the invasion which came that September.

Valerie Yorke, author of *The Gulf in the 1980s*, doubted that Iraq was planning an attack, but pointed out that President Saddam was apt to do the opposite of whatever the Western press predicted. If there was much speculation that he was merely sabre-rattling, he might use military force. It seemed unlikely that he would launch an invasion, but an attack on specific targets could not be ruled out.

Heino Kopietz, a senior Middle East analyst of Control Risks Information Service in London, said General Saddam's tactics amounted to extortion. "There is a minimal risk of conflict," he said.

Iraq had made its aims clear by demanding \$2.4 billion (£1.3 billion) direct talks with Kuwait. It had revived its old border dispute with Kuwait to strengthen its case.

The Kuwaiti forces were well-equipped but lacked experience, never having fought in a war. Any contest between the two would be a "walkover" for Iraq, he said. "The Kuwaitis would not be able to hold out for more than a few hours."

Their tanks were old and would be irrelevant against

Iraq's might. Their 24 surface-to-air missiles would do some damage to the Iraqi Air Force, but would not alter the outcome. Such a scenario was most unlikely, however. Both the Iraqi threats and the American gestures of naval support were intended to have a psychological, not military, impact.

He felt Kuwait would probably be forced to make concessions on oil production at the Opec meeting. However, it could reply to demands for reparations by pointing out that it had contributed \$30 billion (£16.4 billion) to Iraq's war effort against Iran.

Sir Anthony felt that too much emphasis was being given to the Opec meeting and too little to Iraq's longer-term aims. It had always wanted to bully Kuwait into giving up two islands in the Gulf so that it could use them for military facilities.

Baghdad laid claim to the whole of Kuwait in the early 1960s when British protection ended. "In 1961, when I was in Cairo, there was an apparent threat from Iraq as soon as Kuwait moved out from British protection. Britain moved troops in, and they were replaced later by Arab League forces," Sir Anthony said.

Britain's show of force succeeded, but could not be repeated, Sir Anthony supported the government's low-key diplomacy. "I don't think it is any good jumping up and down unless you are in a position to do something." Britain's interest was to avert war in a region which produced 60 per cent of the world's oil, he added.

Whitehall sources continued to play down Britain's role, saying it was limited to advising the parties to resolve their differences by dialogue. But even this has been conveyed only during routine diplomatic meetings.

Sir John Moberley, consultant to the Middle East programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, said President Saddam wanted Iraq to play the leading role in the Arab world.

"His (Saddam's) view is that Iraq's sacrifices in the war with Iran entitle it to that sort of position," he said.

Saddam rhetoric 'may lead to war'

From OUR CORRESPONDENT in JERUSALEM

MOSHE Arens, the Israeli defence minister, has warned that threats by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq were raising the prospect of war in the Middle East.

In remarks published widely yesterday in Israeli newspapers, Mr Arens said he feared "Saddam Hussein's rhetoric may get out of his control".

He was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee earlier this week that he had made the same statement last week during meetings in Washington with Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary.

Mr Arens's remarks are the latest of a number of warnings by Israel since President Saddam said in a speech on April 2 that he would retaliate against Israel if Iraq or any other Arab countries were threatened.

"Those who are threatening us with nuclear bombs, we warn them that we will hit them with binary chemical weapons," he said. "I also say that, if Israel dares to hit even one piece of steel on any industrial site, we will make the fire eat half of Israel."

Talks on what level of defence funding the Jewish state will receive next year are taking place in Washington. Israel is concerned about several proposals that could cut its \$3 billion (£1.76 billion) annual allotment, including \$1.8 billion for purely military purposes.

Mr Arens said: "When I was defence minister six years ago, Saddam Hussein and his army were busy conducting a war against Iran. At that time he was not making hostile statements against Israel. Now the war is over and, with its end, his style has also apparently changed."

Earlier this month Major-General Amnon Shahak, Israel's chief of military intelligence, told a news conference that Israel took President Saddam's threats seriously. "There is no red light situation in the region, but perhaps we are in a situation of a green light turning yellow," he added. "Words do have an influence."

Boesak seeking divorce

Johannesburg — Allan Boesak, the South African Coloured clergyman and anti-apartheid activist, who has admitted to an extra-marital affair with a white television producer, yesterday announced that he is resigning from the ministry immediately and seeking a divorce (Ray Kennedy writes).

Dr Boesak and Elna Botha, who is married to a local television presenter, said their marriages were breaking down before they met in January and that they would continue to see each other. Dr Boesak indicated that he would now be involving himself further in politics.

Britons lost

Two British men, Philip Beadle, a teacher in the Seychelles, and Norman Roberts, who was on holiday visiting him there, are feared to have drowned after failing to return from a fishing trip three weeks ago.

Teeth survey

Oslø — Norwegian scientists are collecting children's milk teeth in an attempt to assess the public health ramifications of environmental pollution in Eastern Europe. Children from Poland, Hungary and East Germany are involved, and the Soviet Union is thought likely to co-operate.

Fiji constitution

Suva — Fiji has adopted a constitution that guarantees indigenous Melanesians a legislative majority. Fiji, a move that had been vehemently condemned by the largely Indian-backed opposition coalition. (AP)

Chairman goes

Kourou, French Guiana — The chairman of Western Europe's space rocket maker, Ariane-space, said he was resigning to take up a new post with the French company Astra. Frédéric D'Allest announced his resignation after an Ariane rocket was launched from French Guiana. (Reuters)

Cubans leave

Havana — Three Cubans who took refuge in the Swiss embassy here on Sunday have left the compound and have been escorted to their homes by embassy staff. The embassy had been given guarantees that the Cuban authorities that the three would not face any prosecution. (AFP)

Baghdad's firepower puts its neighbour in the shade

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the Iraqi military build-up on the border with Kuwait may be just sabre-rattling, there is no doubt that Baghdad has for years had a contingency plan for attacking its neighbour. In the words of one defence expert, it was "just a question of taking it off the shelf and dusting it down".

Iraq is extensively equipped. Throughout the eight-year war with Iran, Baghdad acquired huge stocks of equipment and, despite some heavy losses in the conflict, the military forces are still over-supplied with weapons, missiles and armour.

The military already will have rehearsed many times over the years the strategy for invading Kuwait. Before Iraq took military action against Iran, the army had practised surprise attacks based on Soviet tactical manoeuvres.

Across the border into Kuwait it is all desert and there are no heavy military emplacements like those built by Iran to counter Iraqi offensives. The Iranian soldiers were well dug in, largely to avoid artillery barrages, which was why the Iraqis turned to

chemical weapons to destroy the emplacements.

Throughout the eight years the Iraqis acquired considerable expertise in large-scale operations, with all the appropriate staff work carried out in the manner of a professional Western army. This experience has given the Iraqis a combat capability that could not be matched by the Kuwaitis, even if they were not outnumbered in both manpower and equipment. The Kuwaiti army has no operational experience.

In a straight comparison, Iraq has total armed forces of a million, which includes an army of 955,000 and an air force of 40,000. Kuwait has 20,300 men, with an army of 16,000, an air force of 2,200 and a navy of 2,100.

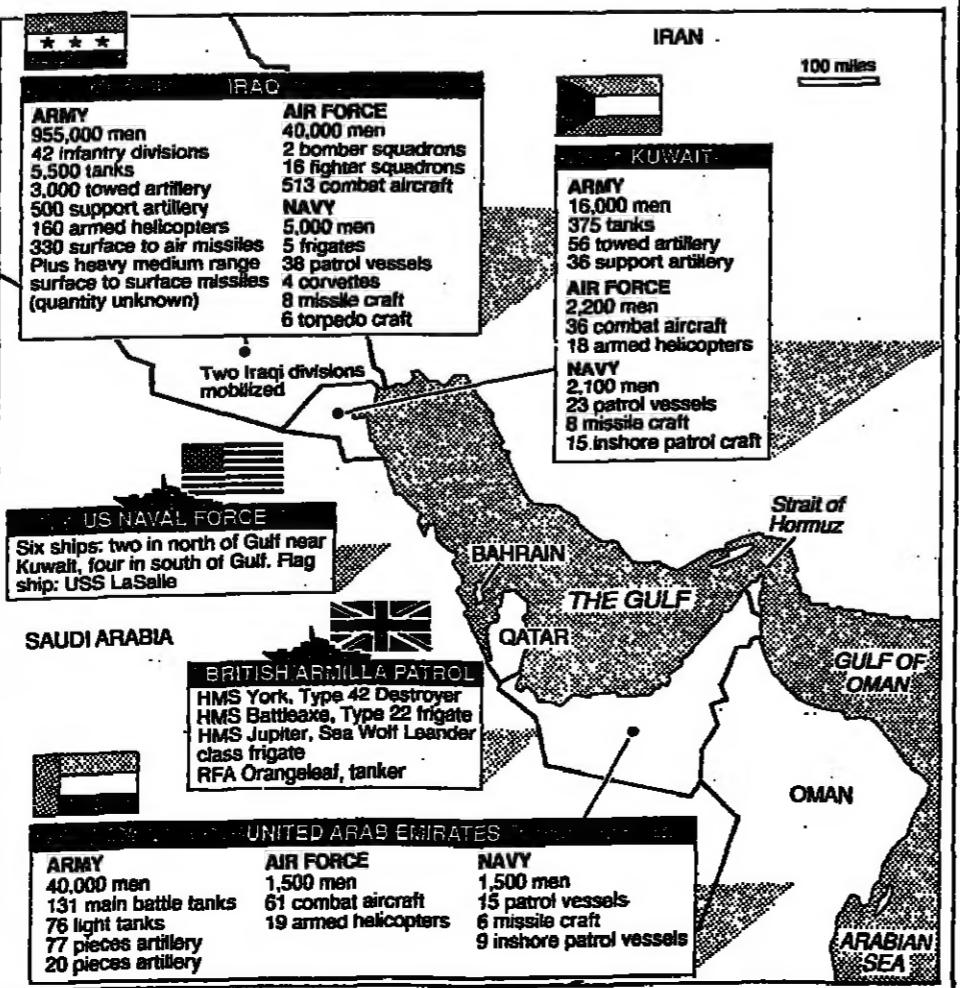
Baghdad has about 5,500 main battle tanks, mostly Soviet and Chinese, of which about 10 per cent are Soviet T72s and 20 per cent T62s. They have 2,500 T54s and T55s. The Iraqis also have some 500 self-propelled and 3,000 towed artillery pieces, including the South African G5 155mm howitzer which

was designed by Gerald Bull, the Canadian-born scientist murdered last March.

Kuwait has only 275 main battle tanks, all of them British, including 40 Centurions and 165 Chieftains. Its artillery stocks consist of 56 towed and 36 self-propelled systems. Kuwait recently formed an extra brigade but no extra tanks were bought to equip the units.

In the past 12 months Iraq has taken into service 12 Soviet MiG29 fighter aircraft, recognised in the West as one of the most effective combat planes in the world. These fighters were added to an inventory that consists of some 513 combat aircraft, including 70 MiG23s and 64 French Mirages, some equipped with Exocet missiles and in-flight refuelling capability. Kuwait has an air force of 36 combat aircraft, including 24 American A4 Skyhawks, to be replaced by F18s.

The navies bear little comparison. Kuwait has just 23 patrol and coastal combatants, including eight missile craft. Iraq has five frigates and 38 patrol and coastal craft.



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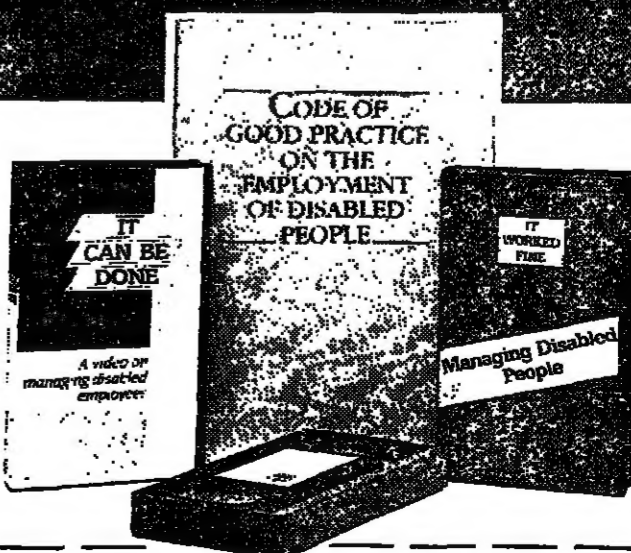
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The walls came tumbling down

The devastating earthquakes which hit Iran last month left up to 40,000 people dead and half a million homeless, while a massive earthquake in the Philippines last week killed more than a thousand. In Iran, the quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and in the Philippines 7.7.

On May 30, an earthquake, measuring 6.9 on the scale and centred in the East Caprathians, shook Romania and was felt in Moscow, 1,300 km away. Just one day earlier, northern Peru was rattled by a magnitude 6.3 quake, which set off mudslides and killed several hundred people.

The Richter scale is logarithmic, and each unit increase corresponds to a 10-fold increase in the size of the earthquake, so that a quake measuring 2 on the scale is ten times as big as a quake measuring 1, and a quake measuring 3 is 100 times greater.

The magnitude of the earthquake is important, but the destructive force of even a strong quake is greatly reduced if the motion is centred deep within the Earth's crust.

Although analysis of earthquakes is providing insights into the interior of the Earth and the movements of the planet's crust, earthquake prediction is still in its infancy.

Ancient Chinese wisdom suggests that animals can be sensitive detectors of coming earthquakes. Other popular theories rely on the statistics of past earthquakes, or

As the world is rocked by a series of recent earthquakes, Nina Morgan reports on a new method for predicting disaster



measuring very small movements in the Earth's crust.

Scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS) are examining a theory conceived by Dr Stuart Crampin, of the BGS and the department of geophysics at Edinburgh University, which suggests that monitoring a type of seismic wave generated by tiny earthquakes will allow large quakes to be predicted a few days in advance.

Another project, known as Mednet and headed by the National Geophysical Institute in

Rome, involves the setting up of a network of high resolution seismometers around the Mediterranean to examine seismic waves generated by small earthquakes. Many scientists see this network as an essential first step towards reliable earthquake prediction.

Despite public interest in prediction, some scientists question its value. Dr Robin Adams, of the International Seismological Centre in Thatcham, Berkshire, supports the idea that the best action against earthquakes is good defence. "You can't stop earthquakes from happening. What you have to do is to look at the probability of an earthquake occurring and construct buildings to withstand them," he says. Earthquakes do not kill, buildings do. "An earthquake is like a punch. If no one is there to take the punch it doesn't hurt."

Seismic risk is a term that combines the probability of an earthquake with factors such as population density, soil conditions and building codes. Dr Nick Ambraseys, head of the engineering seismology section of the department of civil engineering at Imperial College in London, uses a simple equation to explain risk: Risk = hazard x vulnerability x specific value. Hazard is defined as our exposure to natural forces such as earthquakes. We can do nothing about these.

Vulnerability, an aspect over which we do have control, is a measure of the likelihood of build-



Homeless: a peasant holds up his hands in despair after the Iranian earthquake left 500,000 people satyaging what they could from rubble.

ings collapsing, and is largely dependent on the local standards of construction and design.

The third term, specific value, is similar to a no-claims clause in a car insurance policy and represents a measure of how much risk we are prepared to assume.

In Britain the earthquake risk is small. Roger Musson, of the Seismology Unit at the BGS, says: "Earthquake risk in Britain is classified on the world scale as low to moderate. It's not severe, but it's not negligible."

Last April, an earthquake measuring 5.1 — the largest this

century — hit Britain, centred at Clun, near Bishop's Castle in Shropshire. Damage was slight. Earthquakes are not uncommon in Britain and sizeable quakes were recorded in Shropshire in 1932, near Ludlow in 1926 and near Hereford in 1896 and 1924.

In Perthshire, Scotland, the little town of Comrie was shaken so often by earthquakes between 1790 and 1805 and again between 1839 and 1846, that the quakes were referred to as swarms, rather than single events.

There are no earthquake building regulations for ordinary dwellings in Britain because building codes assume low vulnerability. But considering that an average of ten buildings in London collapse every year without the help of earthquakes, even a very small tremor could be damaging.

Most earthquakes are associated with movements at the boundaries of the tectonic plates which cover the Earth. But some, such as those in Britain, do occur in the middle of a plate.

The idea of plate tectonics, now more than 25 years old, provides

an explanation for many of the features of the Earth's surface. From mountain belts to ocean depths, simply stated, the theory describes the surface of the Earth as being made up of a number of rigid plates, which slide around and are deformed mainly at their edges.

The areas where plates come together are known as plate boundaries, and in geological terms these are where the action is. As a rule of thumb, wherever two plates meet, the Earth is bound to shake. The question is not so much where — as when.

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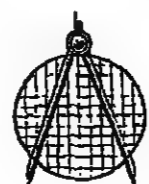
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مكتبة التكنولوجي

Some companies are using secret psychological tests on job applicants, Leslie Tilley reports

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Candidates for scientific and technical jobs are increasingly being given psychological tests before being hired. However, some senior industry figures are calling for standards to govern their use or rejecting them altogether. Companies use psychometric tests as a means of introducing objectivity into their recruitment procedures and as a way of overcoming the limitations of the interview which has been criticised when used in isolation. Such tests are often employed when large numbers of candidates are being evaluated at the same time, for example during the milk round. They are also used in some cases when employees are being considered for internal promotion.

A survey by the Institute of Manpower Studies indicated that 42 per cent of companies responding used cognitive tests for scientific and technical staff and 27 per cent used personality tests for the same type of job.

Cognitive tests assess a range of abilities including intellectual, spatial, clerical and motor. Personality tests attempt to reveal information about traits such as values, perceptions, attitudes, pre-conceptions, prejudices and sociability.

However, some businesses are having second thoughts about using such tests. Employers say that universities are increasingly preparing students for the milk round by giving them dummy tests similar to those used by employers. In many cases employers use the same tests. "We do not use these tests as there are now too few tests being used by too many

employers," says Alan Havell, the graduate recruitment manager for the Oracle software firm. "Candidates' responses are no longer natural." The Graduate's Career Advisory Service confirms that it has commissioned its own test to help students get into the "right frame of mind", says Dr Brian Putt, who is the director

JOBSCEENE

of the Central Services Unit. He says that specialists such as scientists and those applying for jobs where there are severe shortages, and hence fierce competition, find these tests irksome, particularly if all applicants are automati-

cally required to do them. "It is a bit like a sausage machine but it depends on the nature of the job. For example, few would object if the test was needed to identify a trait which a company considered essential," Dr Putt says. "It is difficult for students to come up with answers that are prepared," argues Rob

Jones, the manager of human resources development at ICL, which does use such tests for both internal and external appointments.

"If they do try to fix the answers, then it is in nobody's interest as they may be put into a job that is unsuitable for them. Psychometric tests are just one of the many different processes that recruits are exposed to. A decision is made on the totality of results, not just one on its own," he says.

Some firms are even using tests which purport to show whether a candidate has any latent criminal tendencies, an increasing worry for companies concerned at the rise in computer crime.

London-based Perm-etric says it has 300 companies using its psychometric tests. They were developed with the assistance of the prison services, according to Bruce Gifford, the managing director. Prisoners were tested and the results compared with those from non-criminals in an attempt to show up traits such as dishonesty.

"These tests are given to a job applicant as part of a battery of tests, as firms do not want staff to be aware of them in case they may fake the answers," Mr Gifford says. However, there is concern in some quarters that so many controls exist, and that standards should be formally introduced.

"Companies looking at such tests should be mindful of the scientific basis of that instrument. There are some extremely specious tests around and some of them leave something to be desired," Mr Jones says.

Medical detectives crack coding of genetic disease

British researchers use computer models to fight cystic fibrosis

protein of a whole series of tiny molecular defects previously linked to the disease. The model could also prove helpful in designing a drug that might overcome some of their deleterious effects.

Proteins are too small to see, even with the aid of the most powerful electron microscopes so, to find out what they look like and the key to understanding how they work, scientists generally resort to indirect methods, such as the painstaking analysis of X-rays reflected by protein crystals.

The snag is that most proteins are notoriously difficult to isolate, let alone crystallise. Computer models, although not nearly as reliable as X-ray pictures of the real thing, can provide researchers with at least a rough sketch.

With the cystic fibrosis protein, the sketch suggests how the protein might work in a healthy individual and how defects might stop it from working in a patient with cystic fibrosis. Details of the research, published in today's *Nature* magazine, exploit a breakthrough made last year when scientists at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and at Michigan University tracked down the cystic fibrosis gene.

Like any gene, it carries the

coded instructions needed for the body to produce a particular protein. Like all proteins, the one produced by the cystic fibrosis gene is made of amino-acid building blocks linked in a long chain.

By reading off the sequence in which different kinds of amino acids appear in the chain and comparing it with the sequences of other proteins, it was discovered that the cystic fibrosis protein shares features with a family of so-called transport proteins. These transporters, lodged in cell membranes, pump substances out of the cells. One is specially developed by some cancer cells to produce chemotherapy drugs which would otherwise destroy them and another is deployed by certain strains of the malarial parasite to eject chloroquine.

The researchers argue that the cystic fibrosis protein is a pump gone wrong. The protein contains what appears to be a small molecular motor fuelled by the chemical ATP. This motor probably drives the protein's machinery, allowing it to eject substances from the cell.

It is in precisely the region where ATP latches on to the motor, supplying it with energy, that the villain of the cystic fibrosis protein is to be found. In about 70 per cent of patients, the absence of one crucial amino acid in this region appears to cripple the protein's pump action.

ROSALIND COTTER

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on next page

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FICTION

Pen Aid against apartheid

Victoria Glendinning reviews work in progress by the choice and master writers of our generation on the divide between Them and Us

This is a rich mix, containing writing from or about Ghana, Somalia, China, Guyana, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan, France, Scotland, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, North America, and England. The 34 contributors have donated their work to express their opposition to apartheid, and the proceeds go to the cultural work of the African National Congress. (There is a cloudiness about what is meant by this "cultural work". It would have been good to give some examples of it in the introduction. The phrase serves as an oblique assurance that the money will not go to buying guns.)

The editors of this collection of short stories, poems and extracts from novels in progress hope the book shows that "commitment to a cause, far from being inimical to individual creativity, can be a rich source of artistic inspiration". That is not in question, since if the talent is there, anything — an old boot, let alone a cause — can be a rich source of artistic inspiration. But all the commitment in the world cannot in itself make good art.

Literary judgments get fuddled by political or moral issues. As Orwell wrote in "Politics vs Literature", "one can perceive merit in a writer whom one deeply disagrees with, but enjoyment is a different matter".

Conversely, it is easy not only to enjoy a work, but to construct reasons for thinking it is good, simply because you agree with the values and attitudes behind it — as your reviewer, for example, agrees strongly with all and any opposition to apartheid. Lots of first-rate writing gets praised as first-class for non-literary reasons. So you have to watch it.



Bapsi Sidhwa



Lewis Nkosi



Zol Wicomb



Edward Upward

But the contributors here are first class. Thirty-four is far too many to list, but they include Brian Aldiss, Nuruddin Farah, Nadine Gordimer, Roy Heath, Naomi Mitchison, Margaret Atwood, Han Suyin, Christopher Hope, Mandia Langa, Ben Okri, Vikram Seth, Wole Soyinka, Marina Warner. There are some English curiosities: a murderous nightmare of a school-story by Edward Upward, Thirties guru of the left and the friend of Isherwood; and a chill university story about graffiti as the modern, unrecognised equivalent of "the wall" at Belshazzar's feast, by the late Raymond Williams.

No thematic directives were given to the contributors, and not all the pieces engage head-on with the outrages of apartheid in South Africa. (The story by Lewis Nkosi from which the title is taken is one that does.) But what emerges, from these contemporary stories and fragments from all over, is a recognition of man's nasty tendency to set up polarities of Them and Us, not only between black and white — though that is easiest, because visible. The elderly coloured woman, between two worlds in Zol Wicomb's "Another Story", thinks that if she were in charge she'd have apartheid "to serve the decent and god-fearing" — except that it's so hard to tell the virtuous from the wicked.

Other apartheid explored in these stories are between employees and employers, children and parents, men and women. Sometimes they are horribly subtle; in James Kelman's "Lassies are



Joyce Carol Oates



Raymond Williams



Emily Prager

Trained That Way", a rough Scot rejected by a girl he chases up in a bar, refuses to accept that girls are trained not to talk to strange men — but then sees her perfectly happy to be picked up by a group of male students. Class and education, not sex, was the real barrier here.

Even a shared background conceals deep divisions. Two Pakistani families from Lahore, extravagantly delighted to meet one another in alien America in Bapsi Sidhwa's "Defend Yourself Against Me", find their fondly shared memories uncover, unbearably, the Muslim-Sikh atrocities that followed Partition. Breaking down barriers can frighten those on both sides. In Emily Prager's "The Laundry", the liberal South African housewife is the friend of her black maid — they dance together to disco music in the sitting-room — but

when her American daughter-in-law insists on doing her own laundry, both mistress and maid are paralysed with incredulous horror.

A star story is Joyce Carol Oates's "Black", about a well-meaning man going to dinner with his ex-wife and her new black lover — a stomach-churning study in embarrassment, the guest giving maximum offence in his alcoholic efforts to express his realisation that the black man is "just a human being like me". Orwell wrote that in so far as a writer is a propagandist, "the most that one can ask of him is that he shall genuinely believe in what he is saying, and that it shall not be something blazingly silly". Beyond that, he said, what is required is talent. The requirements are more than fulfilled in this impressive — and enjoyable — anthology.



James Kelman, on ancestral Scottish voices of class war

At the campfire of the vanities

AMERICA is itself the greatest poem, as Whitman long ago suggested, and contemporary American fiction is doused in its coarse and overwhelming textures. English fiction, with its pinched remove, can only look and yearn. Since Dreiser, much of this American fiction has been a kind of homage to contemporary bewilderment — and Peter Cameron's fine first novel, *Leap Year*, is well within the tradition.

It is a novel not just set in Manhattan, but living in it, like one of its own characters. All the randomness of urban life is here — health clubs, bars, sperm banks, day care centres — and Cameron's characters make their way through this world with a comic resignation, helped on by the author's choppy wit. (For instance, Lillian on a New Age fitness salon: "The class was very strange. It involved natural chanting and a lot of sitting perfectly still but visualising yourself in hysterical motion.")

Cameron's point is connectedness. His novel (unlike the smoother passage of his short stories) bobs around from scene to scene with an episodic mania. But his characters are pulled together as the novel's net tightens. Lillian goes to a sperm bank because she wants a child but not a husband, and selects donation no. 72428 from the prospectus, on account of that number's desirable profile. Later in the novel we learn that no. 72428 is the donated sperm of one of her best friends, a gay photographer called Heath Jackson. It is like the fever that connects people in *Black House* — in the midst of material randomness, we are humanly joined in unpredictable ways. Cameron presents softish middle-class New York life, but puts a comic spin on it that is entirely distinctive. One hears Jane Bowles and Tom McGuane in his skin-tight prose.

Kathy Acker's *In Memoriam to Identity* has also submerged itself in urban tangle. But where Cameron's writing stays aloft, hers just drowns. She is a post-modernist writer, while Cameron is not, but in these confused days post-modernism is anything you want it to be. In the past, Acker's post-modernism has expressed it-

self not through verbal disruption (her prose is uninteresting) so much as through bizarre plots with strange alignments and blockages. Her latest fiction is her usual beggar's banquet of sex and crack-up.

It is focused around the early years of Arthur Rimbaud (with strange anachronistic references to Aids and the Nazis). One treasure is her translation of Rimbaud. Where the poet has "I wrote of silences of nights", Acker translates: "I wrote silences, nights, my despair at not seeing you and being in a crummy hotel next to you." Along with this there are two contemporary narratives (a woman who is raped and becomes a stripper, and a violent performance artist).

This is actually more fun than it sounds. But whether it amounts to the "in memoriam" that Acker seems so devoutly to believe in (the individual broken up by the fragmentation of modernity) is another question. The spiky writing does not break up identity, so much as draw attention to identity's literary construct-

edness when written about. So this is just one of the sacred cows of post-modern fiction given another milking; it's nothing new. Acker may think she has finally delivered the last rites over what Lawrence called "the old stable ego", but this ragged book looks more like a temporary tranquilliser.

Moving from Kathy Acker to Penelope Bennett's very English collection of stories, *An Endangered Happiness*, is like going from Times Square to an English country garden. But here, too, there are weeds and menacing roots just under Bennett's peaceful soil. In the title story, for instance, Constance, a sculptor, is bullied and humiliated by a neighbour, Joy Perkins. It is a delicate study of identities at war. Mrs Perkins, in her frozen pose, is quite as chilling as any of Kathy Acker's characters. There is a placidity about Bennett's writing which at times inclines to blandness; more often, it hints at concealment, at a velvety acuteness. The English garden may not be the greatest poem, but it has some fictional life in it yet, it seems.

James Wood

LEAP YEAR

By Peter Cameron

Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

IN MEMORIAM TO IDENTITY

By Kathy Acker

Pandora, £12.95

AN ENDANGERED HAPPINESS

By Penelope Bennett

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

Parts other writers cannot reach

Byron Rogers

ALBERT RIDES AGAIN

By Jack Trevor Story

Allison & Busby, £12.99

rushing from room to room, tumbled to the walls, to keep track of what is going on.

It begins with a plot, set in the familiar Trevor Story country of hire purchase and adultery in vans in hitching lay-bys, but then there are other plots, enough for ten books — only, as you are bounding along one of these, it suddenly

peters out. You find yourself dressed only in a shirt, staring around you in a crowded street, for there are many characters too.

A woman with no teeth who runs a tally shop and, it turns out, the IRA. A USAF colonel who appears to be planning the Great Train Robbery. Only the Queen of England is missing, and she is promised for the next book: she blows up the Channel tunnel. But who is this climbing in, "artistic and bearded and with interesting poached eggs under his eyes"?

It is, of course, the author himself. Mr Trevor Story actually appears as two characters, one of

whom gets kidnapped by Jehovah's Witnesses, is tied up naked on a bed, and has fish paste put on his arm, followed by a hungry cat. The author's real-life wives and children also have walk-on parts.

And there are characters from his earlier books, like Albert Argyle, though off-stage and dead here, having been caught short in the woods, where, practising his pleasant call as he squats, he is fatally mistaken by a hunter. They don't write books like this anymore, if they ever did.

But what are you to make of a villain who, shot dead, subsequently turns up? "Marchmont

saw the shaven-headed man six or seven times in his lifetime, sometimes walking, sometimes serving in street markets, sometimes driving a bus. On the bad days he wore a wig." And of other villains identified only as Alfie Bass, Victor Maddern, Harry Towh, film heavies out of all our pasts? Alas, that is the moment you throw this book.

Only you always retrieve it because of the strange voice you will not hear anywhere else. An outrageous voice. "Laboriously a man climbed over the woman and reached for his truss." A voice that can stop you in your tracks.

"Kathleen Finbow lived in a brothel. Most people do to a greater or lesser extent."

It speaks over the ruin of plots and the extinction of characters. "Hospitals becoming boring unless the loved one is dying..." "You could not help but return Marchmont's smile, which was instantly trusting and vulnerable and sad. It contained the tears of rejection..." "That is what cancer is; everybody on the ship roasts away from day calendars..."

It is the voice of a man who hears a different drummer, and I could listen to it all day, for all Trevor Story's books are about himself in the end. I wish the man well who is writing his biography. That will be like trying to establish footpath rights on the M1.



Saturday Review

Murder as a French art

In the backwoods of France, a boy's death seems to bring the family curse of Greek tragedy. Peter Ackroyd reviews the story of a ghastly crime

From Russia with hate

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

MOSCOW MAGICIAN

By John Moody

Gollancz, £13.95

IN A claustrophobic tour de force two men smuggle themselves out of Moscow in a coffin, thereby setting a price on freedom that few would be prepared to pay. In the box, an odd couple of Soviet low life, the Walter Matthau and Jack Lerooni of the Russian black market and Jewish dissidence: in pursuit, an old KGB hardliner with no time for perestroika, and more in sympathy with former American adversaries keen to preserve the status quo, a type fast becoming a standard of post cold war thrillers. *Moscow Magician* is distinguished, however, by its lack of stereotype, by its feeling for ordinary lives lived in the cracks of the Eastern bloc, by its guided tours of the bits of Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia that tourists don't see, and by its sympathy for the indomitable spirit of Russian opposition forced underground. As such, serious entertainment, and alpha minus.

Keith Peterson's *The Scattered Man* (Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95) is exemplary of its kind: a thriller that crosses over into the horror territory of Stephen King. A worldly young journalist dreams up a ghost story one snowbound Christmas to impress the new woman in his life, only for her to freak out and announce that the scattered man of his tale has been stalking her nightmares — who? who? who? — an ante immediately upped when both find that the bogeyman is all too real, and the chase is on. Peterson has a way with scary characters forced to confront the lost child in themselves, a way, too, of making his characters sound real — droll American dialogue a speciality — and it is they rather than plot that turn the clever but unexceptional into a story gobbled in one uneasy sitting. A high scare rate on this particular switchback ride, and uneasy dreams to follow, hence alpha minus.

● *The Last Candidate* by Mike Phillips (Michael Joseph, £12.99) lifts the lid off local government; a

rising black political is knifed dead, and an old childhood friend, now a journalist, refuses to accept the police's easy solution to the case. Phillips takes a wry look at alternative London — great names like Spid Tarrant, Vishay Prasad, and Kevin Sparks — and the strange alliances and hostilities of a multi-ethnic society. The cynical conclusion is that our taxes subsidise widespread graft and corruption, and the reason why so little movement is possible in a moribund society is because those at the top of even the smallest leap have their hands thrust so deep in someone else's pockets. England's ingrained racism is the serious theme of an otherwise light entertainment, albeit illuminating on the conventionally unthrilling subject of council politics. *Beta plus* (plus).

● Loyalties by Gavin Esler (Headline, £12.95), as one might expect from a prominent television correspondent, is much taken with issues. Compromised news journalist — the new hollow man — working for a down-market satellite company is offered an exclusive interview with top IRA strategist. But he is assigned a camera crew more SAS than ACTT, led by a routine action man whose brief is to rescue a kidnapped explosives expert giving seminars in bomb-making to the IRA. Characters illustrate moral dilemmas, from forced collaboration to the abortion contemplated by the journo's wife. Her jaundiced assessment of husband's professional and domestic cop-outs is trivier in argument than the main terrorism plot, which in turn lacks lustre compared with the tant set-pieces of

the kidnap subplot. *Beta plus* ? plus.

● Craig Thomas writes fat airport thrillers with names like *The Last Raven* (Collins, £13.95), superficially indistinguishable from the rest, in fact rather better than most. There is the usual multi-national plot, involving a grey British eminence trying to work out why the CIA and KGB should combine forces to shoot down a plane carrying the general secretary's wife, and the usual family tie-ins — a niece jeopardised by the subplot — that make such stories costly familiar. So far, so formulaic, and Thomas, knowing on which side his bread is buttered, is willing to oblige. But out on the edges of his story there are signs of real engagement, most evident in his treatment of a field agent at the end of his tether, caught up in a Buchanan-esque manhunt, which suggests that inside all that research a sleek, classic thriller — 180 pages max — is struggling to get out. *Beta plus* ? plus.

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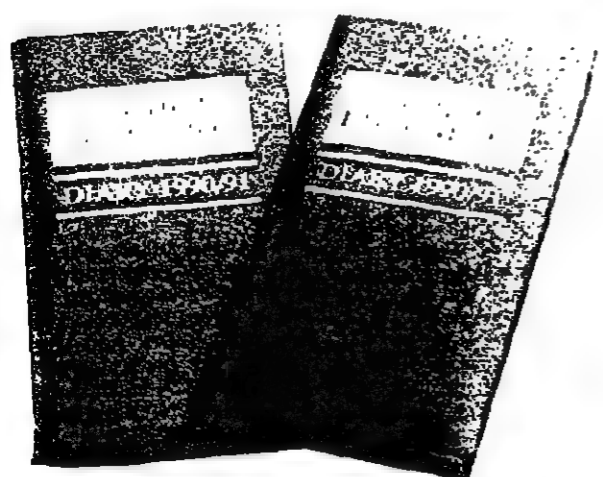
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ARTS

JAZZ: INTERVIEW

Bossa man is no fragile reed

Saxophonist Stan Getz, whose combative temperament is helping him to fight life-threatening cancer, talks to Clive Davis

The morning after his July 19 concert at the Festival Hall, Stan Getz appeared fresh and relaxed. "I gave them a good show last night. It wasn't tiring. That's because I rest during the day. My stamina is not so good, so I take things easy: two naps a day, 20 minutes each time." In slacks and tee-shirt, he looked younger than his 63 years. Yet as he began to talk, it was quickly clear that he was carefully rationing every ounce of energy. Many audience members the previous night were probably unaware that the tenor saxophonist, one of the most inspiring of post-war players, is still grappling with cancer.

The illness was diagnosed two years ago when a growth was detected behind his heart. After surgery it was found that the tumour — "the size of a tennis ball" — was malignant. Though it was removed, another appeared two months later. According to Getz, the doctors' prognosis offered little hope. It was at this point that Getz, a combative personality, decided to try a homeopathic remedy which, it was claimed, could stimulate his immune system and thus combat the disease.

"I was supposed to be dead a year and a half ago," he said. "The therapy has given me a reprieve. I started a macrobiotic diet: vegetables, seaweed, things like that. Some of it looked horrible and tasted horrible — I mean, I'm a meat-and-potatoes guy from way back. I also get acupuncture and herbal treatments. But I must get plenty of rest. I don't travel much — this tour is the first I've done since last year. The trouble is, I hurt when I don't play. I can rest a month or two, but after that I feel useless and wasted."

One other way of staying active was to record *Apasionado*, his debut album for A&M, the label owned by trumpeter Herb Alpert. Alpert, whose sleek fusion music bears little resemblance to his Tijuana hits of the Sixties, acted as producer on the sessions, surrounding Getz with synthesizers and Latin percussion. The setting

may sometimes come too close to cocktail music, but Getz himself has always seemed incapable of sounding dull. The real surprise is hearing him in this setting in the first place. Had he not, after all, renounced fusion and electronics after flirting with them in the Seventies?

"In the Seventies, I was working with these young guys — I had to keep telling them to play softer because I didn't have a mike on my sax. They'd say, 'Fine'. Then the next night it would get a little louder and louder. It seemed their ideas were the opposite of 'less is more'. They thought loud was good. That's why I got disenchanted with it."

The Latin ambience on much of *Apasionado* inevitably evokes memories of Getz's bossa nova recordings. He helped to launch the bossa craze in America in 1962 when he made the album, *Jazz Samba*, alongside the guitarist Charlie Byrd. With his record company eager to exploit the commercial possibilities, Getz turned out recordings at a phenomenal rate over the next few years. Among the very best was the sublime *Getz-Gilberto*, a collaboration with guitarist João Gilberto and pianist Antonio Carlos Jobim.

The huge success of those albums gave Getz an unprecedented degree of financial security. Unlike many jazz musicians of his age, he has the means to be discriminating about when and what to record. Even so, he was intrigued to learn from a recently compiled discography that he has 225 records to his credit, not including more than 100 illegitimate "bootlegs". His next project, he hopes, will be a collection of duets with his regular sideman, the pianist Kenny Barron.

He is a perfectionist, and over the years there have been plenty of anecdotes about the famous Getz temper. Recent experiences, he agrees, have left him more mellow, though some things — among them the incompetence of certain promoters — still make him angry.

He was unhappy when news of



Inspiring, perspiring: Stan Getz on stage during last week's concert at the Festival Hall

his illness first leaked out; he would have preferred to keep the matter private. Now he is more than willing to discuss the issue, if it can be of help to others. In

America, he said, he has received many phone calls asking for information about his treatment: "A lot of it comes down to attitude. When most people hear

the word 'cancer', they're ready to lay down and die. I'm a fighter. I'm a stubborn Russian Jew, and that's the worst kind in the world."

Doctor's diagnosis

Following his resignation this week as artistic director of the Old Vic, Dr. Jonathan Miller launches a robust attack on the Arts Council in a television programme to be broadcast next Thursday. The targets of his attack (on TV's *Music Makers* programme) are the bureaucrats who decided to withdraw funding from Kent Opera last December, and so led to the touring opera company's demise. "If the same principles were applied to Kent, which had a couple of bad years, so we are told, then I think Covent Garden would have had its throat slit many years ago," thunders Miller. "There is that idiotic rhetoric which always supports the massive subsidies to things like the National Theatre and the Royal Opera House, as if plucky little Kent should imitate what went on at Covent Garden. God forbid that they should imitate much of the rubbish that goes on there."

The distinguished director then turns to his theme. "The Arts Council is promiscuous and frivolous," he continues, describing Covent Garden as "untouchable because it has powerful, glittering friends in high places. All I say to the Arts Council is 'Sod you'."

No Frankfurters

Although it does not announce its plans until next week, one thing is already certain about the Covent Garden Festival, which will run from September 12 to 22. The new venture, headed by Lord Gower, will not enjoy the scoop it had hoped for, of introducing William Forsythe's widely acclaimed Frankfurt Ballet to London. Although Forsythe is keen for his work to be seen in Britain, he had doubts about the advisability of a London debut on an outdoor stage in a temporary theatre in Covent Garden. It is likely that his company's British debut will take place next spring in Leicester as part of that city's second international dance festival.

Almost non-stop

Some of the world's top concert organists converge in All Saints Church, Kings-ton-upon-Thames, over the next three days for a 50-hour "organi-marathon". From 7am to 1am today, tomorrow and Saturday, the church will resound to non-stop organ music, culminating on Saturday night in performances by the American organist-entertainer Carlo Curley and the Messiaen specialist Jennifer Bate.

The project is intended to pay off remaining debts on the organ itself: it was commissioned three years ago by Kingston Parish Church, from the Danish organ-builder Erik Frobenius, at a cost of £250,000. Over £200,000 has already been raised. "At the last count, 23 organists are performing," says Andrew Watson, the organiser. "I guarantee a good mixture — everything from Bach to light music."

Not following on?

What is said to be the costliest film ever produced makes its debut in British cinemas tomorrow. But even the \$70 million (£39.1 million) price-tag on *Total Recall* (reviewed opposite) will be left far

behind by the planned "sequel" blockbusters with which the studios soon hope to capture the hearts, minds and pocket money of the pre-pubescent generation. *Terminator II*, displaying once more the fine mind and muscles of Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Alien III*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *Die Hard III: lethal Weapon III*: the mayhem will flow freely next summer.

Most speculation, however, surrounds *Batman II*, which has hit a "script deadlock" that may disguise other problems. Chief of them, perhaps, is the movie's rocketing budget — expected to top \$100 million (£55.9 million), of which \$40 million (£22.3 million) is reputed to be Jack Nicholson's fee for playing the Joker. This summer's box-office is down on last summer's, the immense marketing operation put into *Dick Tracy* has not yet borne the expected fruit and sequels rarely outstrip originals. Warner Bros. may be having second thoughts.

Piano nobile

While a partially demolished Batavia Power Station monoliths into a stately ruin, the Italians seem to have a lot more ideas of what to do with their redundant industrial monuments. Hot on the heels of Fiat's announcement of their plans to make over the Turin Lingotto factory (the one with the carved iron balustrade on the roof) into



Renzo Piano: Needed here?

a major cultural centre comes another brilliant idea from the fertile brain of the architect Renzo Piano. This time it is the old Milan factory of Ansaldo, the armaments firm. Alongside the first show on site (about Milanese design) are Piano's plans, and feasibility studies for making it into a permanent design museum, within a building which is itself a design classic. The Commune of Milano owns the site, and is willing to finance the project. Could they be persuaded to take over Batavia?

Moving poem

After its heat-inducing appearance on television last year, Tony Harrison's poem "V" is now taking to the stage. A tribute against decay in present-day Britain for "a torrent of four-letter filth" according to the *Daily Mail*, Harrison's poem will be performed by four members of the Volcano Theatre Company as part of the Edinburgh Fringe. Sparked by the sight of graffiti scrawled on a family tombstone, Harrison's poem launches into a post-mortem on a nation obsessed with "us" and "them". After its Edinburgh premiere, the stage version will transfer to Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford, west London.



Daniel Auteuil as Scapin

the early Eighties with *La Dernière Folia de Waterloo*. Its heavy rock mood music and chamber orchestra of disembowelled combustion engines reached new decibel records and its unbridled use of fire, water and explosives seemed to place the onlookers within an inch of their lives. The company's participation in the official Avignon programme is a sign of its maturity, without sacrificing its original daring, not least its eccentric image. The brains behind Royal de Luxe is the soberly dressed Jean-Luc Courcoult, who, with the help of a permanent company of around 20 performers/mechanics, invents a world that takes reality beyond the realms of fiction.

La Véritable Histoire de France is a giant pop-up book. Each of its 12 pages (seven by four metres and weighing over a quarter of a ton) recounts a piece of French history. As each page is turned, a castle is stormed, Moscow is burned, a believer tortured and the trenches filled with dead. It is a disturbing, devastating picture of history brought to life by Courcoult's fiendish imagination, that invents battalions of mechanical devices, visual gags and an audio backdrop of monumental dimensions. A giant fork delivers a barrage of old shoes, a hot-air balloon swells between the pages and is let loose to the skies. Sleep nod, flames lick, bombs explode, hybrid vehicles rush by, until the senses become saturated. The Avignon festival will never be quite the same.

TELEVISION

Detecting some small increases in interest

IN AN otherwise dire week for new contest shows, when Leslie Crowther's *Stars in Their Eyes* (ITV) must have done more to boost the emigration figures than anything since the second world war, Granada has come up with a winner in *Cluedo*, the chief mystery being why no one ever thought of it for television before. True, London Weekend a few months ago did station Michael Aspel in a country-house hotel, clothed in a natty blazer and deep embarrassment while the local amateurs tried to stage a murder weekend all around him, but *Cluedo* is the original classic and has wisely been televised in consultation with the makers of the board game.

There has, of course, been a

little updating: Colonel Mustard is now into international arms deals, Mrs White has taken to the bottle. Professor Plum is a visiting American and the Reverend Green has, suitably enough, gone into ecology. There is, however, still a body in the library, and within half an hour we have to work out whether it was the candlestick or the poison and of course whodunit.

Last night it was Mrs Peacock, rampantly played in *Dynasty* style by Stephanie Beacham, which was a confusing crossover for those of us who have always thought of *Cluedo* characters as belonging to Miss Marple's world of vicarage snobbery with violence, rather than anything quite so blazingly transatlantic.

And there are one or two other mysteries as yet unexplained: in less than half an hour we have to meet all the characters, see the killing, and then have the studio celebrities (in this case Nanette Newman and a former Dr Watson, Edward Hardwicke) solve the puzzle. What happens, in the 12 or so minutes after the commercial break, if none of them gets it right — how then to introduce the all-revealing flashback? Equally, what happens if one of the panel guesses the killer immediately?

The show is so tightly scripted that it would seem to have little time for human error, let alone too many wrong guesses. Nevertheless, given our national passion for period board games redolent of country houses and upmarket

property deals, I would be inclined to stand by for television *Monopoly*. Meanwhile, why has no network tried a screen version of *Trivial Pursuit*?

The late-night radio star as detective is a notion that goes back all of 20 years, to Clint Eastwood's *Play Misty for Me*, but it was given a good new twist by Dave Sheasby's *Night Voice*, last night's *ScreenPlay* on Two. Alexei Sayle, fresh off *The Gravy Train* but without whom no television night now seems complete, turned up as the phone-in host who could take everything except involvement. Terrified of other people's domestic lives going off like hand grenades in his headphones, he tried desperately to keep them as voices in the air, until a local

property scandal forced him to face his own past domestic tragedies.

It was, on one level, a conventional gumshoe script, but intelligently pieced together and held in place by Sayle as the overweight, overnight radio slob. The character was drawn in such loving detail that Sheasby may well have it in mind to go for a series. He would be wise to retain from this pilot both Leslie Sharp as Sayle's ambitious sidekick and the general atmosphere of a seedy small provincial town, only able to reveal its darkest emotional and financial secrets to a lone voice at the other end of a telephone line in the middle of the night.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

THEATRE: AVIGNON FESTIVAL

At long last, entertainment

Diane Hill reports from a French theatre festival which this year exhibits a lighter and more populist approach

The Mistral that annually tousles the Avignon Festival, now in its 44th summer, this year has the bracing bite of a wind of change. Blown away are the dusk-to-dawn dramatic marathons and intellectual labyrinths whose ins and outs are accessible only to the favoured few. In their stead is a programme that, for the most part, demands no superhuman physical or mental staying powers. The aim is to entertain.

After a string of tragedies, laughter makes a welcome comeback in the ancient Cour d'Honneur of the Palais des Papes, the festival's most honourable open-air stage, with a revitalised

production of Molière's *Les Fourberies de Scapin* (*The Tricks of Scapin*).

A ferocious farce about unarranged marriages and the outsmarting of elders, its social barbs have, over the years, been blunted by familiarity. Directed by Jean-Pierre Vincent, Patrice Chéreau's successor at the head of the Amandiers Theatre in Nanterre, the work regains its cutting edge, acquires unaccustomed dramatic depths and humorous heights.

Vincent's unsentimental, street-wise direction removes the learned veneer that has obscured the text in recent times, to reveal it as a black comedy, a colouring which admirably suits Daniel Auteuil's moody, Mediterranean Scapin.

Best known outside France for his moving portrait of Ugolino in the film *Jean de Florette*, Auteuil charismatically destroys all former sketchy images of Scapin as an engaging mischief-maker. He replaces them with a full-blooded portrait of a low-born chancer, with a sackful of chips on his shoulder and the wit and cunning to offload them on to others. Two young gentlemen seeking to outwit their fathers in order to marry for love and not status, provide Scapin with just such an opportunity.

Vincent inundates Jean-Paul Chambas's minimalist design, that lifts the action off the narrow streets of Naples onto its rolling

rooftops, with an aggressive choreography, faithfully executed by the spring-heeled cast, who leap around with deceptive ease. The play's inherent *commedia dell'arte* mechanisms are cleverly recalibrated, fusing 17th-century grotesquery with 20th-century vernacular.

This bonding of ancient and modern works well with the characterisation of Argante and Géronte, the two fathers, masterfully interpreted by Jean-Paul Farré and Mario Gonzalez. Unrecognisable behind their black *commedia* masks (the only characters to wear them) and deformed by Patrice Cauchetier's excellent mock-Molière costumes, the two actors turn in outlandish star performances. Gonzalez plays Géronte as a hunchbacked dwarf, revealing himself only in the closing scenes to be of normal stature. This is a revelation that beats any of *les révélations* which Molière here, as in a number of his comedies, employs to tie up loose ends and ensure a happy ending.

The highly improbable coincidences in *Scapin* are that the fathers discover their long-lost daughters and the sons discover that they are marrying each other's sister. Inimaginatively constructed, impeccably executed, this production leaves nothing to chance. The present laughter in the Cour d'Honneur will undoubtedly be just as enthusiastic at the Amandiers when it opens there in the Autumn.

For fear of singeing nearby trees, *Le Véritable Histoire de France* by Royal de Luxe was transferred at the eleventh hour from the published venue to the wider open space of the Place du Palais. With a brand of street theatre on a scale which can have few equals, this Nantes-based company first exploded onto the streets of Paris in

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ARTS

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Woody's world of the human comedy

David Robinson reviews *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, *Gremlins 2*, *Total Recall*, *Black Rainbow*, *Babar The Movie* and *The Boost*

Woody Allen's films alternate between the comic, in which he himself stars, and the serious and even solemn, in which he does not. *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (15, Odeon Haymarket) successfully combines both styles, in telling the parallel but separate stories of two men in Allen's usual middle-class Jewish Manhattan.

Allen plays an unsuccessful director of low-budget but high-minded documentaries. He is married to a frigid wife with whom he has not slept since Hitler's birthday last year. He envies and despises his brother-in-law (Alan Alda), a millionaire media trendy, who even carries off the woman who might have offered the documentary-maker a consoling love affair (Mia Farrow).

At the same time, we follow the story of an ophthalmic surgeon (Martin Landau) whose life is all glittering success: the film opens with a testimonial dinner in his honour. But to secure his honour and high reputation against a threat of exposure, he becomes party to a murder.

The deed is followed by terrible remorse. However, to his great surprise, instead of the divine retribution his sound religious education led him to expect, he finds that his success multiplies and, what is worse, the sense of guilt itself fades away with time.

The two men encounter quite casually at a wedding, and reflect together on a universe in which logic and justice have no place, where our lives depend upon our individual decisions and our will to survive. Allen is the only director who would actually articulate the moral of his story, which is spoken over the close of the film by Martin Bergmann in the character of an old emigre philosopher, the subject of the documentary director's unfinished film.

Because Allen's films have so often ridiculed pretension, particularly in other cinemas, critics tend to get embarrassed by Allen's own audacity in tackling the Great Themes. The ambition of this film is indicated by the title, with its

variant upon Dostoevsky. Allen is the only American film artist who boldly attempts to portray the human comedy, to explore the relationship of man to his universe. He does it by focusing on a clearly defined ethnic group which he knows from the inside, and which he portrays with an equal mixture of love, ridicule and guilt.

Allen's loyal band of collaborators grows. Sven Nykvist, long the cinematographer of Allen's idol Ingmar Bergman, provides the now recognisable Allen look, favouring soft, golden shades. Actors Bower in Allen scripts: Sam Waterston and Mia Farrow are regulars; Landau, Alda, Anjelica Huston, Claire Bloom, Jerry Orbach make their Allen debuts.

Gremlins 2: The New Batch (12, Cannon Haymarket, Oxford Street) is a rarity: a sequel (again directed by Joe Dante) better than the original. The new writer, Charlie Haas, who has replaced Chris Columbus, the *Gremlins* inventor, has superimposed on the monster genre a nice line in satirical comedy about contemporary New York life.

The *Gremlins*' main target this time is a new high-tech office building created by a developer tycoon startlingly like Donald Trump (he falls for a siren called Maria). Who can resist the spectacle of monsters diligently wrecking a palace-prison of glass and steel, where employees are watched by video-eyes and unhealthy incalculables such as potted plants are forbidden by edict?

The best joke is that the *Gremlins* themselves — the master of special effects, Rick Baker has characterised a wonderful variety of diabolical characters — are eager to adopt the style of New Yorkers once they have taken control. Their spokesman, who has swallowed a bottle of brain hormone and become a Gotham intellectual, goes on television to explain their yearning for civilisation.

The film is full of background gags, like the snappy talking lift and automated doors that are always hurting unsuspecting pedestrians to the floor. There are lots of movie gags too. The tycoon's cable television promises *Cas-*

ablanca "in colour and with a happier ending". The whole film is presented within Looneytoon titles in which Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky Pig fight for main credit; the best moment comes when the *Gremlins* invade the theatre and burn the film as we watch it.

At something near \$70 million (£39.1m), *Total Recall* (18, Odeon West End, Marble Arch) may well be the costliest film production ever. Two months after its release, with gross receipts well over \$100m (£55.9m), there is no need to be sorry for anyone.

The cost is visible on screen, with vast, astounding and genuinely inventive sets representing colonised Mars in the year 2084, and an elaborate, if fairly repellent race of mutants.

The box-office appeal may well be due less to the spectacle, however, than to the skill with which the screenplay (by Ronald Shusett, Dan O'Bannon and Gary Goldman) exploits every current paranoia. Mars a century ahead realises all today's worst fears: violence, terrorism, corruption, pollution and ecological collapse.

The story is of near impenetrable complexity. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a terrestrial construction worker who resorts to a mind travel agency, where exotic dream-memories are implanted in the brain. After the operation goes wrong, neither he nor we are ever sure if he is the worker or a secret agent; whether he is an agent, a double agent or a triple agent; or indeed which of his many *doppelgänger* manifestations is the real character.

Grown-ups certainly cannot figure it all out. The puzzle as so often is whether the teen audience, conditioned by computer games, is actually able to follow the labyrinthine twists; or whether it does not really care so long as the violence is non-stop, with minute-by-minute cracking of necks and blasting of heads. The director, Paul Verhoeven, who made his name with some very offbeat films, obliges energetically. The

Agent, double agent or triple agent? Arnold Schwarzenegger changes his image during *Total Recall*

film's visual invention is offset by its visceral nastiness. Schwarzenegger's self-deprecatory good humour prevails none the less.

In *Black Rainbow* (15, Curzon West End), Mike Hodges, as writer-director, turns a slight supernatural anecdote into an atmospheric ghost story. Rosanna Arquette (who grows ever more like a triplet to Isabella Rossellini and Nastassja Kinski) tours rundown industrial townships on the bible belt with her father (Jason Robards), bringing messages from the dear departed. Things start to

go awry when she starts to predict the deaths of the still-living.

The aforementioned Bugs Bunny has just celebrated his fiftieth birthday. Babar the elephant, created by Jean de Brunhoff and kept alive by his son Laurent, is nearing 60. Babar the Movie (U, Cannon Tottenham Court Road, Pantons Street) is very loyal to the spirit and elegant minimalist graphic style of the original. The appeal of the story is strictly for the youngest audience; though it is nice to know that the film is helping to raise money to save real-life elephants.

The Boost (18, Cannon Oxford Street, Pantons Street) is a timely cautionary tale for Hollywood, with James Woods as a young go-getter who gets caught up in the fast life of the West Coast; and gets hooked on cocaine when the bubble of quick riches bursts. There is no doubting the sincerity of the film-makers — director Harold Becker — or the diligence of the actors: Woods' loving, suffering wife is played by Sean Young. The story and sentiments, though, have too much the style of Victorian tracts such as *The Bottle or The Road to Ruin*.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

CHICAGO JOE AND THE SHOWGIRL (Palace, 18). Talent goes to waste in this botched exhumation of a murderous wartime crime spree, with Emily Lloyd as the Hammerhead girl egging on an American deserter (Kiefer Sutherland) to a life of anarcho-fantasy. Director, Bernard Rose. 1990.

DOCTOR WHO (BBC): Two feature-length television episodes from the 1980s — *The Five Doctors* (U), the celebrated jamboree collecting together various Dr Who impersonators (except the first, William Hartnell), and *The Brain of Morbius* (PG), with Tom Baker venturing forth onto the planet Karn.

GLEAMING THE CUBE (MGM/UA, PG): A Californian skateboard freak tries to solve the death of his adopted Vietnamese brother. Absurd thriller, dragged down by Christian Slater's tiresome nasal whine, but hosted up slightly by skateboarding thrills and spills. 1989.

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE! (Virgin, 15): Energetic but superficial account of the early years of legendary rock 'n' roller Jerry Lee Lewis. Exuberant star performance from Dennis Quaid; directed by Jim McBride. 1989.

HENRY V (20.20 Vision, PG): Visually drab, war-torn version from wunderkind Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars, scoring a bull's eye in neither field. Some solid acting elsewhere (Judi Dench especially), but the film fails to ignite the emotions. 1989.

LOCK UP (Guild, 18): Factory-belt prison drama, with Sylvester Stallone trying to soft-pedal the brutality as a model inmate faced with a vengeful warden (Donald Sutherland). John Flynn's taut direction gives a helping hand to the slack script. 1990.

THE LONG GRAY LINE (RCA/Columbia, U): John Ford in long-winded, sentimental, heavily Irish mood, celebrating the life of a West Point alumnus (Tyronne Power). By no means a great film, but an interesting Hollywood artefact. 1955.

THE SEA WOLF (Warner, PG): Dark, compelling treatment of Jack London's novel, with Edward G. Robinson as the psychopathic ship's captain making life miserable for Alexander Knox, John Garfield and Ida Lupino. Handsomely directed by Michael Curtiz. 1941.

SOME LIKE IT HOT (Warner, U): A slender story — two musicians in drag, fleeing gangsters — delightfully decorated by Billy Wilder, with just a few over-the-top moments. Jack Lammon and Tony Curtis provide outrageous comedy, but Monroe gives the film its heart. 1959.

THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS (Warner, U): The story of Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight — a curious project for the acerbic Billy Wilder — though James Stewart's performance, the impeccable production values, and Franz Waxman's soaring music all keep the film airborne. 1957.

GEOFF BROWN

CINEMA: SCRIPT SEMINAR

Holy writ from the movie Moses

Michael Gray attends screenwriter Robert McKee's three-day Story Structure Course in London

At One: Central London, a June Saturday, 8.55am. One hundred individuals converge on Regent Street with a common, bizarre desire: to learn to write hit screenplays. They spill off buses; they fight out of Piccadilly and Green Park tube-stations; they hunt the back alleys of Savile Row for parking-spaces in their race against time.

In the next five minutes they must reach the steps of the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, and register for the Robert McKee Story Structure Course — an intensive three days, costing £300.

What Lone, Haunted Artists and Their Pain gather here: 70 per cent of these people still smoke cigarettes. "I hear Paramount sends everyone on this..." "Who is McKee?" "He does this world-wide..." "Isn't that Susannah York?" "He wrote for tv..." "That's Nigel Planer: I wonder why he's here."

A clock strikes. A bell rings. Students drop cigarette-ends into coffee-dregs and surge forward into the dark lecture hall.

On-stage, a back-drop of hi-tech blackboards. A lecturer squats at each side, festooned with microphones. Spotlights pick out a square module lying on the floor. From it, 20 feet of this microphone cable swoops up to the collar of a tall, well-built, silver-haired American guru. He paces the stage. He pours himself a slug of coffee. Robert McKee is ready.

His rich voice asserts itself at once. Scattering four-letter words — this is public-speaking for the 1990s: a lecture, but a hip one — McKee gives back-story exposition: how he comes from off-Broadway to Hollywood, finds work reading scripts for United Artists... and discovers that no one knows how to tell a story anymore.

"So, ladies and gentlemen,

here's how. Literary talent is not enough. Who are these characters? What do they want? The industry sits on the foundation of writing. For those who can write brilliant stories, it's a seller's market. You too can live in Beverly Hills."

He argues that stripped down, *Out of Africa*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, and *Terminator* share the same story-form people have bought since time began. "People go to movies for meaningful emotional experience — the very thing they cannot get from life."

Pens raced to get it down. It is clipped, confident, coherent; pouring out tough common-sense with a new, shining clarity. Structure, scenes, sequences are defined, and this is just the introduction. McKee ends dead on 10.45, without even glancing at the clock.

The students queue for coffee, chat, smoke. This goes on all day: insight mixed with breaks. By the end (7pm sharp) they have learnt setting and genre; the controlling idea; the protagonist; levels of conflict; the inciting incident. The terms read out. McKee is a star.

Act Two: Same place, Sunday mid-morning. McKee is back in action — but the atmosphere is turning. It's tense now. Sections of the crowd grow restive. The pop-psychology and gung-ho American start grating. The Euripides-Schwarzenegger mix seems glib. Cine-modernists resent the John Wayne sub-text. For feminist career-women, McKee transmutes fast into the bad guy. Under the lights, as in life, common-sense starts sounding less like truth than just another right-wing view.

Treating questions as heckles, he puts them down. He will only take clarification, not challenge. A large minority of his audience reaches boiling point. They start to shout, mock, tease. "You're making me defensive, and I don't like that!" McKee shouts back. Losing

his cool, will he lose all he has striven to build? Today it's McKee who needs the lunch-break.

Act Three: Afternoon. By effort of will and force of material, McKee re-asserts his charismatic authority. The crowd's sense of fair play works in his favour, as does another common-sense view: politico-cultural debate wastes time and money. McKee's trump card — the very thing people resent — is overbearing definiteness. It is clear what there is to agree or disagree with. The afternoon passes.

Same place, final day. Have the students and McKee bonded through common travail into the Four Great Principles of Composition and Pace, Set-Ups, Pay-Offs and Image-Systems? They head for the Climactic Action: the famous McKee analysis of the classic movie: *Casablanca*.

The lights dim and the screen flickers. A surprise! A short: a



Casablanca, the classic film analysed by Robert McKee

silent-movie Moses on the Mount receives the tablets of stone, while a voice-over declaims McKee's Ten Commandments of Screenwriting. This is comic relief for tempo's sake: the lull before the climax.

But, the sub-text is many a true word spoken in jest: McKee is the white-haired patriarch brandishing prescriptive principles. He plays Moses ("I put back into currency what was once common knowledge... under the old studio system") but he may as well be Jehovah: distill and they're the same character.

Roll *Casablanca*... roll scene-by-scene analysis. This is indeed Hollywood at its most beguiling. Everything in this 50-year-old classic illuminates 50-year-old McKee's theses.

His post-climax resolution? That this is the world's best-loved movie because its message promises that "in the fundamental human dilemma of love versus duty, you can have both". Bogart affirms his love for Bergman by putting her on the plane and walking away alongside Claude Rains, the noble political realist.

But this is a false ending — and McKee now stands revealed as a Bogie fantasist: the all-American loner always putting Bergman on the plane because sacrificing love is easier than sustaining a relationship. In an inspired final twist, McKee, seeking to stress his message by quoting "As Time Goes By", sings the lines...

A revelatory moment, making sense of all that has gone before. Unlike those who see *The Sound of Music* 200 times, here is a man carving a career out of obsessively re-viewing *Casablanca*. Shyly, he stops singing. The audience appreciates the pathos; they cannot but admire the fanaticism behind the actor behind the guru. Sustained applause. McKee bows. The End.

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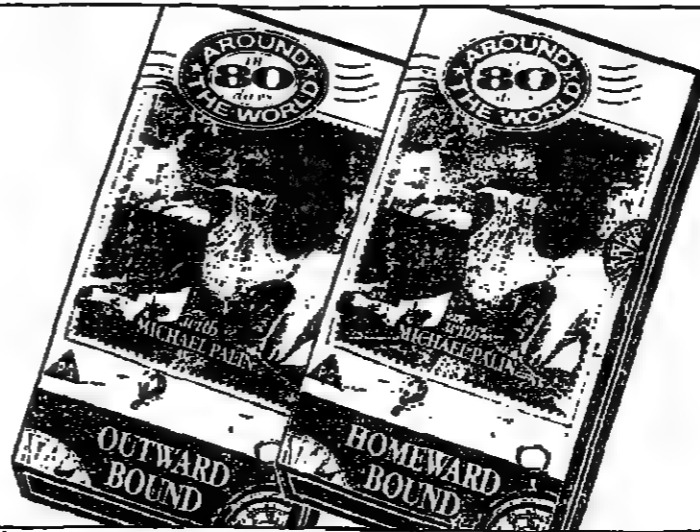
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Thailand remands drug girl

From NEIL KELLY
IN BANGKOK

TEENAGER Karen Smith was remanded at Bangkok criminal court yesterday until August 5 on charges of attempting to smuggle heroin out of Thailand. Her hearing took only a few minutes. She was not asked to plead.

After her appearance, Karen, of Solihull, who will be 19 next month, said: "I don't want to stay in a greasy cell for a lifetime." With tears streaming down her face, she spoke to her father through the bars of a dark, humid cell under the court. She said she felt worse than when she was arrested a week ago at Bangkok airport. Eric Smith said the reality of his daughter's plight was just hitting her.

Karen's lawyer said there would be more remands at 12-day intervals before the case proceeded. Police said enquiries were centred in Thailand and England on suspects who may have financed and obtained the 49 lb of heroin allegedly found in the baggage of Karen and her companion, Patricia Cahill, aged 17, who has been similarly charged.



Photographers spot Karen Smith in a police car at Bangkok criminal court where she is facing heroin smuggling charges

Six oilmen killed in helicopter crash

By KERRY GILL

SIX oil workers were killed when a Sikorsky S61 helicopter crashed into the North Sea, 116 miles northeast of Lerwick, Shetland, yesterday as it approached a rig in the Brent oil field.

Seven of the 13 people on board, 11 oil workers and two crew, were saved by rescue craft after they scrambled out seconds before the aircraft sank. The helicopter, owned by British International Helicopters, was about 100 yards from the Brent Spar tanker loading facility to which it was heading.

Last night, one of the survivors told how the helicopter's tail rotor hit the jib of the Brent Spar crane as it manoeuvred towards the heli-pad. David Reid, aged 45, of Ayr, was speaking at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. "We spiralled into the deck and fell into the sea. The chopper fell on to its side and quickly filled with water. I managed to scramble out through the window," he said. "I must have been the last to get out."

Shell refused to confirm or deny reports that the helicopter crashed after its tail rotor hit the jib of the Brent Spar's crane. Bob Reid, chairman of Shell, said: "It would be wrong for me to speculate about what happened." Con-

ditions in the area were calm but low-lying fog hampered visibility. A remote-controlled diving vehicle found the Sikorsky 450ft below on the seabed and preparations were being made last night to bring it to the surface. Shell UK, operators of the oilfield, said. The bodies of the six missing men were later found in the fuselage.

The seven people rescued by craft from two standby vessels, the Seaboard Sentry and Seaboard Supporter, were taken to the Safe Gothia accommodation unit for medical checks.

Aberdeen coastguard, which co-ordinated the search and rescue operation, said it was unaware of any SOS transmissions from the helicopter. A map shows the location of the crash site in the North Sea, near the Brent Spar tanker and the oil rig. The map includes labels for Shetland, Orkney, and Aberdeen, and a scale bar indicating 40 miles.

Ridley's art export rules come under attack

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

NEW rules which will allow private buyers to bid for art treasures of national importance to prevent them going abroad could make works of art vulnerable to the clandestine art market.

The advisers to the arts minister on exports say that unless key alterations are made, national treasures which public collections cannot afford to buy could be permanently locked away from public gaze and scholarly study, suffer from inadequate conservation conditions or even disappear into the clandestine art market.

The reviewing committee on the export of works of art was set up 38 years ago to advise on the control of the export of works of art and antiques, to consider cases where an export licence might be refused on grounds of national importance, and to supervise the operation of the export control system.

An export licence for an object of national importance can already be delayed to allow public collections to match the price. In May Nicholas Ridley, the former trade secretary, introduced the new element of public bidding to match private bidders could bid. This was immediately followed by a £7.6 million bid to match that of an overseas

buyer for the Canova "Three Graces" sculpture. The British bid was made by David and Frederick Barclay, private collectors, whose offer is still being considered by the owners.

However, according to the report, the publication of which has been delayed because of the recent ministerial shuffle, the change is potentially dangerous. Ratified last week by an advisory council made up of the country's leading art experts, representatives of the art and antiques trade, museum directors and representatives of heritage bodies, the report calls for key changes and, if necessary, legislation to enforce them to close loopholes.

Although in the case of the Canova statue the Barclay brothers have offered a 25-

year guarantee of public access, the committee of advisers is concerned that private buyers are not being required to guarantee public access.

"In fact," the report says, "we believe that there are circumstances in which, if British public collections were unable to acquire a heritage object, it would be preferable for it to go to the Louvre or the Getty Museum where it would be available for study, rather than to be acquired and kept in this country by an uncooperative private owner." The committee wants 20 years' public access guaranteed.

The advisers are concerned that dealers could be given access. "Since a dealer could presumably be classed as a private owner the measures could even be used by members of the art trade" it says.

BAe has 'right' to test ruling under Rome treaty

Continued from page 1

Smith) told me today that the company propose to test in the European Court the Commission's requirement that they repay £44.4 million to the government. The company has this right under Article 173 of the Treaty of Rome.

As fresh evidence emerged of additional hidden "sweeteners", the Commons

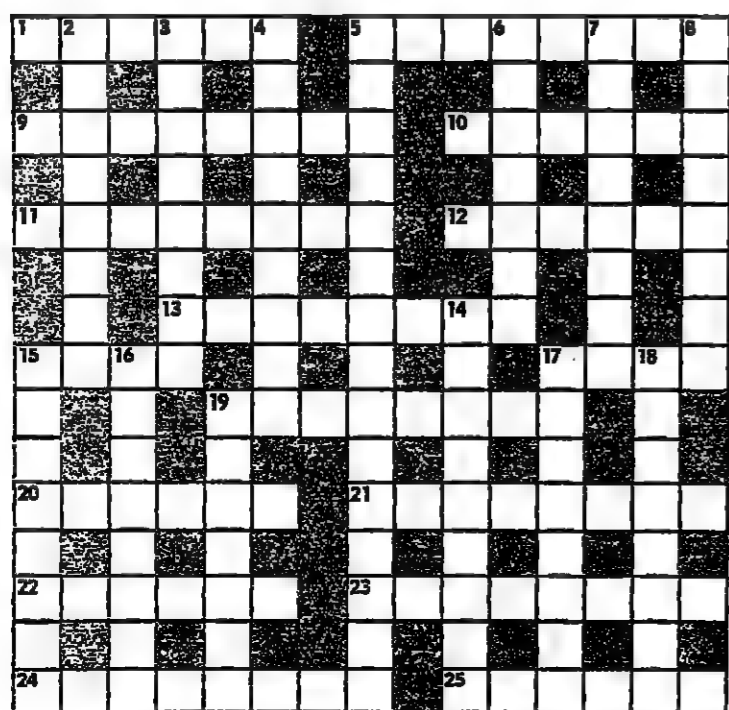
trade and industry committee yesterday withdrew its report over the government's handling of the Rover sale to BAE (Sheila Gunn writes).

The committee has now recalled Lord Young of Grafton, a former trade and industry secretary, to explain a promise he made to BAE that applications for financial

assistance would be "sympathetically considered". His offer to Professor Smith on July 14, 1988, was reported yesterday. The draft report, which has now been withdrawn, had treated Lord Young lightly over the "sweeteners" he sanctioned for BAE in return for purchasing Rover for £150 million.

Matthew Parris

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,356



- ACROSS**
- 1 Join second force, having nothing to lose (6).
 - 5 Excessive number involved in forgery of voucher (8).
 - 9 Catch game (8).
 - 10 Artist from Harlow (6).
 - 11 Married to Arthur's mother - what a headache! (8).
 - 12 One thousand and two hurt (6).
 - 13 Iberian resort about empty (8).
 - 17 Marble accessory (4).
 - 19 Get dazed and stop talking to sailors (3,5).
 - 20 Voice is a hit in this circle (6).
 - 21 Left Wiltshire to be trained as an artist (8).

- DOWN**
- 2 Pale people demonstrating (6).
 - 3 Modern incursion into the 14th century (8).
 - 4 Talk about order - it is unimportant (2,6).
 - 5 Plain speaking of course (6).
 - 6 Incite single girl to become wan-tion (8).
 - 7 Money paid in a note to others (8).
 - 8 Remove cycle with heartless order (9).
 - 9 Hash or stew fifth-rate? Quite the reverse! (2,3,5).
 - 10 Back to sea with new weaponry (7).
 - 11 Explosive blows up rock out of bed at first eruption (8).
 - 12 Merriment - it makes an appearance during term (8).
 - 13 Concerned with fool about to eat what is being prepared? (9).
 - 14 Fools fasten flap (4,4).
 - 15 With winter coming, the telephone plays a vital part (8).
 - 16 Tree I saw moving, so to speak (2,2,4).
 - 17 To have a good time, I have started smoking outside (4,2,2).
 - 18 In a way, foreigner is striking (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,355

DOWN: 1. RIVER, 2. POND, 3. LAKE, 4. STREAM, 5. RIVER, 6. LAKE, 7. POND, 8. RIVER, 9. LAKE, 10. STREAM, 11. RIVER, 12. LAKE, 13. POND, 14. RIVER, 15. LAKE, 16. STREAM, 17. RIVER, 18. LAKE, 19. POND, 20. RIVER, 21. LAKE.

Concise crossword, page 13

WEATHER

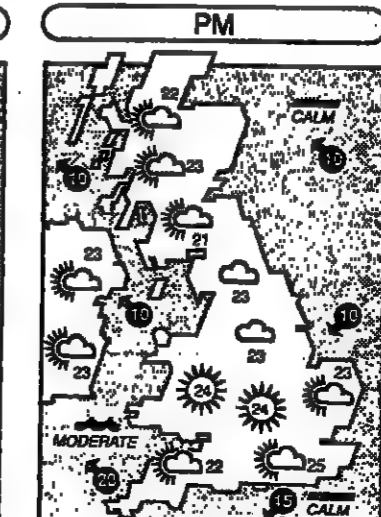
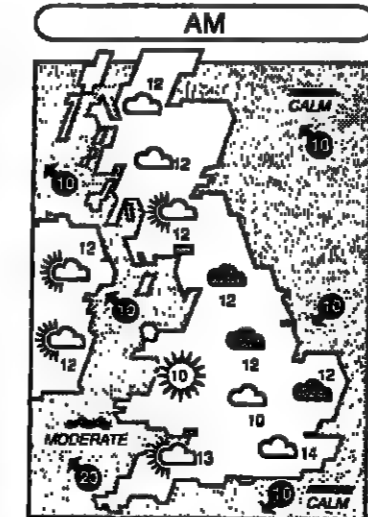
It will be cloudy at first in coastal regions of England and Scotland and the cloud will spread inland, especially in the south. The northern isles will stay cloudy for much of the day. Elsewhere there will be long sunny periods and it will be very warm in sheltered central and western areas. Cloud will return to many eastern regions during the evening and there may be mist patches in other areas. Outlook: sunny at first, but cloud moving in from the south-west.

ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	27-31	S	10-20
Akrotiri	29-34	S	10-20
Alexandria	30-36	S	10-20
Algiers	34-39	S	10-20
Amman	17-23	S	10-20
Antananarivo	22-28	S	10-20
Asmara	30-36	S	10-20
Bahra	36-42	S	10-20
Bangkok	30-36	S	10-20
Barbados	30-36	S	10-20
Batavia	30-36	S	10-20
Bombay	30-36	S	10-20
Buenos Aires	30-36	S	10-20
Burkina Faso	30-36	S	10-20
Burundi	30-36	S	10-20
Cairo	30-36	S	10-20
Cameroon	30-36	S	10-20
Cape Town	30-36	S	10-20
Chad	30-36	S	10-20
Congo	30-36	S	10-20
Cote d'Ivoire	30-36	S	10-20
Cuba	30-36	S	10-20
Cyprus	30-36	S	10-20
Dahomey	30-36	S	10-20
DRC	30-36	S	10-20
Dubai	30-36	S	10-20
Dominican Rep	30-36	S	10-20
DRC	30-36	S	10-20
France	30-36	S	10-20
Germany	30-36	S	10-20
Ghana	30-36	S	10-20
Greece	30-36	S	10-20
Haiti	30-36	S	10-20
Hong Kong	30-36	S	10-20
India	30-36	S	10-20
Indonesia	30-36	S	10-20
Iran	30-36	S	10-20
Italy	30-36	S	10-20
Jamaica	30-36	S	10-20
Japan	30-36	S	10-20
Kenya	30-36	S	10-20
Lebanon	30-36	S	10-20
Libya	30-36	S	10-20
Madagascar	30-36	S	10-20
Mali	30-36	S	10-20
Morocco	30-36	S	10-20
Mozambique	30-36	S	10-20
Nigeria	30-36	S	10-20
Poland	30-36	S	10-20
Portugal	30-36	S	10-20
Romania	30-36	S	10-20
Russia	30-36	S	10-20
Senegal	30-36	S	10-20
Sierra Leone	30-36	S	10-20
Singapore	30-36	S	10-20
Slovakia	30-36	S	10-20
Slovenia	30-36	S	10-20
Somalia	30-36	S	10-20
South Africa	30-36	S	10-20
Spain	30-36	S	10-20
Sudan	30-36	S	10-20
Swaziland	30-36	S	10-20
Sweden	30-36	S	10-20
Switzerland	30-36	S	10-20
Tanzania	30-36	S	10-20
Togo	30-36	S	10-20
Tunisia	30-36	S	10-20
Turkey	30-36	S	10-20
Uganda	30-36	S	10-20
Ukraine	30-36	S	10-20
USA	30-36	S	10-20
Uzbekistan	30-36	S	10-20
Venezuela	30-36	S	10-20
Yemen	30-36	S	10-20
Zambia	30-36	S	10-20
Zimbabwe	30-36	S	10-20

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12-18	S	10-20
Manchester	12-18	S	10-20
Birmingham	12-18	S	10-20
Cardiff	12-18	S	10-20
Edinburgh	12-18	S	10-20
Glasgow	12-18	S	10-20
London	12-18	S	10-20
Manchester	12-18	S	10-20
Birmingham	12-18	S	10-20
Cardiff	12-18	S	10-20
Edinburgh	12-18	S	10-20
Glasgow	12-18	S	10-20



LIGHTING-UP TIME

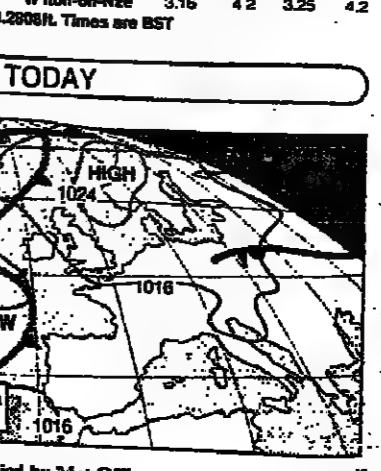
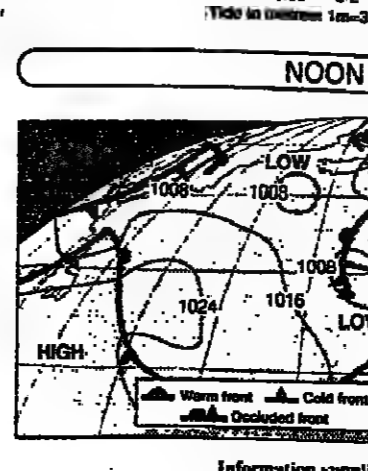
Location	Time
London	5:58 pm to 5:16 am
Bristol	5:08 pm to 5:26 am
Edinburgh	5:32 pm to 5:07 am
Manchester	5:16 pm to 5:16 am
Penzance	5:14 pm to 5:44 am

YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	23-28	S	10-20
Birmingham	23-28	S	10-20
Bristol	23-28	S	10-20
Cardiff	23-28	S	10-20
Edinburgh	23-28	S	10-20
Glasgow	23-28	S	10-20

TOWER BRIDGE

Location	Time
London	5:58 pm to 5:16 am
Bristol	5:08 pm to 5:26 am
Edinburgh	5:32 pm to 5:07 am
Manchester	5:16 pm to 5:16 am
Penzance	5:14 pm to 5:44 am



Information supplied by Met Office

BUSINESS

THURSDAY JULY 26 1990

Oil prices to rise as demand outstrips Opec production

By HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

"IF ONLY Saddam could wait a while, all this drama would not be necessary", said a delegate to the preliminary meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Geneva yesterday. He was referring to the deployment of Iraqi troops by President Saddam Hussein along the border with Kuwait and the assumed quarrel was primarily about oil prices.

What the delegate wanted to convey, however, was generally agreed: oil prices would go much higher over the next few years because demand would continue to increase while the production capacity of most Opec members would be unable to keep abreast.

During the past four years, the

demand for Opec oil rose from 15.5 million barrels per day (mbd) to 22.5 mbd, and prices rose to reflect the demand, despite the fluctuations and the quota-breaking. The organisation adheres to the prediction last November of Rihwan Lukman, its president, that by 1992, demand will be so high that individual country market shares, the quotas, will become unnecessary. Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, then the oil minister of Kuwait, said at the same time that by the end of 1992, the demand for crude from members of the organisation would reach 24 mbd.

Any further rise above that level, however, might be beyond Opec's ability to fulfil, at least in the shorter term, according to Mehdi Varzi, director of

Signs point to \$20 a barrel

OIL prices steadied as preparatory talks got under way in Geneva, ahead of the start of the full Opec session today (Martin Barrow writes). North Sea Brent crude for September slipped back 12 cents to \$19.45, while West Texas traded almost unchanged at \$20.53.

Prices relaxed as fears of military

intervention by Iraq in Kuwait receded and talks over quotas and a new target price for oil began in earnest. Reports that Iraq would call for prices of \$30 a barrel were dismissed by analysts last night as "unrealistic."

Negotiators are expected to press for \$25 a barrel, but settle for \$20.

energy research for Kleinwort Benson. He said yesterday that, with or without Opec, prices would go higher over the next few years.

He added: "The chances are high that the ministers will agree at this meeting in

Geneva to immediately increase the official price to \$20 per barrel, and I expect them to stick to it this time."

The Kuwaitis, like President Saddam, believe price rises are inevitable as demand catches up with capacity to

produce and export. The dispute between the Iraqis and the Iraqis, on the one hand, and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, on the other, is over methods and time scales. The latter group wants prices to rise naturally and more slowly; the former through immediate action by the cartel. The latter consists of those who do have the ability to produce more, while the former have over-exploited many of their oil fields.

Assuming the industrialised countries that consume three-quarters of the world's energy production are not plunged into a recession, will an invigorated oil cartel be in a position to quadruple prices suddenly, as it did in 1973? Oil experts believe not. Producers

and consumers have learned that such erratic behaviour is destabilising and serves nobody's interests. The experts also say the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf is no longer the "global choke point for oil". Extra pipelines are running through Saudi Arabia and others through Turkey. Another war in the Gulf region would not disrupt exports to the same extent as in the past.

Finally, the green lobby hopes that increases would encourage industrialised countries to redouble efforts in developing kinder, gentler alternatives to fossil fuels. To the holders of this view, the \$30 oil barrel is heaven sent.

Can Opec survive? Page 10

AFF plans flotation next year

ASSOCIATED Fresh Foods, a £65 million management buy-out from the Asda-MFI group in 1987, is planning a stock market flotation next year.

Unveiling a 13 per cent rise in operating profits at £11 million for the year to end-April, Harry Lavery, the AFF chairman, said that Lazard Brothers, the group's financial adviser, is "reviewing options" open to the group, and the outline plan is to bring the company to the market in 1991.

AFF is one of the country's leading fresh food manufacturers and distributors, and includes Associated Dairies and Cravendale Foods, which supplies dairy and food products to the retail, wholesale and catering trades.

Pre-tax profits were £3.6 million against £3.3 million, said Mr Lavery, on a turnover of £164 million.

Lasmo ahead

Lasmo, the independent oil exploration and production company, increased net income by 17 per cent to £32 million during the six months to the end of June. Earnings rose by 9 per cent to 8.2p a share and the interim dividend is increased 10 per cent to 2.2p.

Hepworth dips

Hepworth, the building products group, made pre-tax profits of £50.1 million in the first six months of 1990, against £53.3 million previously. The interim dividend rose from 5.15p to 5.5p a share.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8095 (-0.0155)
W German mark 2.9328 (-0.0219)
Exchange index 92.9 (-0.8)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1865.7 (-1.0)
FT-SE 100 2364.7 (+3.8)
New York Dow Jones 2926.49 (+3.97)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 31701.27 (-1.19)
Closing Prices ... Page 27

Major indices and major changes

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15.14-15.16%
3-month eligible bills 14.74-14.76%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7.75%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.54-7.52%
30-year bonds 10.1%-10.12%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1 8095
£ DM 2.9328
£ Sfr 2.4678
£ FF 163.38
£ Yen 253.38
£ Index 92.9
ECU £0.703348
SDR £0.740807
ECU £1.421771
SDR £1.349879

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$367.40 pm \$372.75
close \$372.25-372.75 (2205.75-206.25)
New York:
Comex \$372.70-373.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) ... \$19.15bbi (\$19.30)
* Denotes latest trading price

	Bank	Barrel
Australia \$	21.45	2.25
Austria S	21.45	2.25
Belgium F	63.30	2.05
Canada C	21.45	2.25
Denmark Kr	11.65	10.95
Finland Mk	10.25	9.63
France F	25.25	2.77
Germany DM	3.425	3.225
Greece Dr	14.64	1.67
Hong Kong \$	11.10	1.10
Ireland P	22.40	2.10
Italy Lira	284	288
Japan Yen	3425	3225
Netherlands Gld	3.425	3.225
Norway Kr	25.25	2.77
Portugal Esc	20.00	1.745
South Africa Rd	5.00	10.48
Spain Ptas	11.08	2.05
Sweden Kr	2.05	4.00
Switzerland Fr	2.05	1.785
Turkey Lira	1.80	19.00
USA \$	25.00	
Yugoslavia Dnr	25.00	

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.7 (June)

De Beers signs \$5bn deal for Russian gems

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

DE BEERS Centenary, the Swiss arm of South Africa's De Beers diamond group, has signed a five-year exclusive contract worth a total of \$5 billion with the Soviet Union to market and sell rough diamonds.

The breakthrough agreement, initiated by the Russians and prompted by their need for foreign exchange, additionally involves a \$1 billion five-year loan, advanced at commercial rates of interest via De Beers Centenary's Luxembourg-based subsidiary.

Collateral for the \$1 billion advance is a Soviet stockpile of diamonds held in the State Treasury.

The agreement was signed in London yesterday by Valery Roudakov, head of Glavalmazoloto of the Soviet Union - the main administration for precious metals and diamonds under the Council of Ministers - and Nicholas Oppenheimer, deputy chairman of De Beers Centenary.

The \$1 billion bankers' draft was delivered to the Russians yesterday afternoon, and is secured against future Soviet diamond deliveries.

For the past 27 years, De Beers has only acknowledged that its links with Soviet diamonds, sold through its Central Selling Organisation marketing arm, have been "indirect".

Yesterday's agreement restores direct Russian/De

Beers links broken in 1963. De Beers conceded that the recent establishment of a Swiss arm to hold all the group's non-South African assets, and the recent pace of political change in South Africa, may have played a part in the Russian initiative.

Negotiations between the two parties had been held in London and the Soviet Union over the past three months, the group said.

De Beers Centenary also acquires a stockpile of rough diamonds held in the State Treasury whose value Moscow wanted to realise.

The Soviet Union has traditionally been "responsible" in its marketing, and the De Beers loan against the stockpile will be seen as a near way of not disrupting the market.

Gary Raife, a De Beers director, said that there had been no hint or threat by the Russians that they would dump their stockpile in order to secure the agreement.

"We learned of the stockpile as our negotiations progressed," he said.

Russian rough diamonds from the stockpile have started to arrive in London for sorting and classification by the CSO. However, because Russian gems have for long made up part of the CSO's regular supply, no particular disruption from yesterday's agreement is expected.

The CSO sold \$4.09 billion worth of rough diamonds in 1989, and in the first six months of this year sales were

\$2.48 billion. The Russian element is estimated to equate to just over 20 per cent of total CSO sales.

The percentage of the world's rough gem diamonds that the CSO handles will rise from 80 per cent to at least 85 per cent.

The Soviet Union, along with Botswana - home of the fabulously rich Jwaneng diamond mine - is acknowledged as one of the world's two more significant producers, by value. Its gem stones essentially come from the Yakutia region of northeastern Siberia and are mined in temperatures that range from -60C to 40C.

Soviet gems are described as being of "good quality", and come in a range of sizes.

The \$1 billion loan will be used for the further development of Russian diamond mines, in which De Beers might be expected to play a part.

In 1987, De Beers transacted a stockpile, cash and share deal with Botswana. In 1989, De Beers signed a "declaration of intent" to help Angola to develop its potentially vast diamond deposits.

There was no request for an equity interest in De Beers Centenary by the Russians. De Beers said that it would be "well placed" should Russian diamond mines ever come up for sale, or if the Russians became interested in joint ventures to mine diamonds.

Debits cleared, page 25

Analysts call power sales 'a midsummer madness'

By MARTIN WALLER

A SUBSTANTIAL and growing minority of City analysts are convinced that the continuing confusion over the possible sale of PowerGen to Hanson has made both electricity generators unfloatable in their current form.

And the leaking of news of a possible sale of PowerGen and the larger National Power was looking last night increasingly like a massive public relations blunder by the government.

Analysts cannot comment openly on the affair, due to its political sensitivity and because of their close ties with the 16 companies in the industry which will be floated.

But they were privately hitting out at the government's handling of the generators' sale as a "shambles," a

"farce" and a case of "midsummer madness."

One commented: "They have totally scuppered the flotation of either company. The government has admitted defeat."

The City is convinced that the introduction of Hanson, at a time when the Department of Energy and the companies were locked in complex and often bitter talks over the amount of debt the two would have to assume, was a piece of political brinkmanship that went badly wrong.

If Hanson now walks away from a purchase of PowerGen - thought quite possible given the current furor - the value of the companies will inevitably be diminished by its lack of interest. But if it buys the smaller of the two, National Power's future viability may be threatened.

This is because it will be saddled with debts, while Lord Hanson's conglomerate has deep pockets from which to fund future expansion, particularly by putting up combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power stations which are cheaper to build and operate.

"Anybody who had the money to buy a generator and build those CCGTs could establish themselves as market leader within 15 years," said another analyst. "If PowerGen is bought, National Power itself could become unsealable. The implications for National Power are all seriously negative."

Union anger, page 25

Brittan to lead study into suspected aid for UK plant

EC to investigate Toyota land price

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner for competition policy, is to open an investigation into the sale of land for the proposed Toyota plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, on the suspicion that the site has been offered at less than market price.

Such an incentive, Sir Leon announced, would constitute an illegal state aid, as Derbyshire is not an area eligible for regional aid. "The commission considers that there appears to be no justification for it in community terms," a statement said.

The commission does not suspect the British government of paying a subsidy to Toyota or determining the price fixed for the land sales. It is investigating only possible aid from local authorities, which are also bound by EC rules on state aids.

Derbyshire County Council is said to have sold a 280-acre site, formerly an old

airport, at a discount of almost £10,000 per acre. The district valuer, an independent public official employed by the Inland Revenue, assessed the land at £45,000 per acre, with a total of £12.6 million for the site. The council sold it to Toyota for £9.9 million, or £35,357 per acre.

Brussels said this difference constituted state aid that should have been notified to the commission under a 1989 law relating to state aid to the motor industry. The council council has also sold a 300-acre adjoining piece of land to Toyota. The commission has opened an enquiry into this sale to discover whether any state aid was involved.

Observers believe Sir Leon has come under pressure to undertake a well-publicised investigation of the Toyota deal to demonstrate his impartiality towards his native country.

The commission announced yesterday that it will begin monitoring all large-

scale mergers within the community on September 21. The policy was agreed in December.

Brussels will also publish a regulation defining the rights and obligations of the commission and companies involved in mergers.

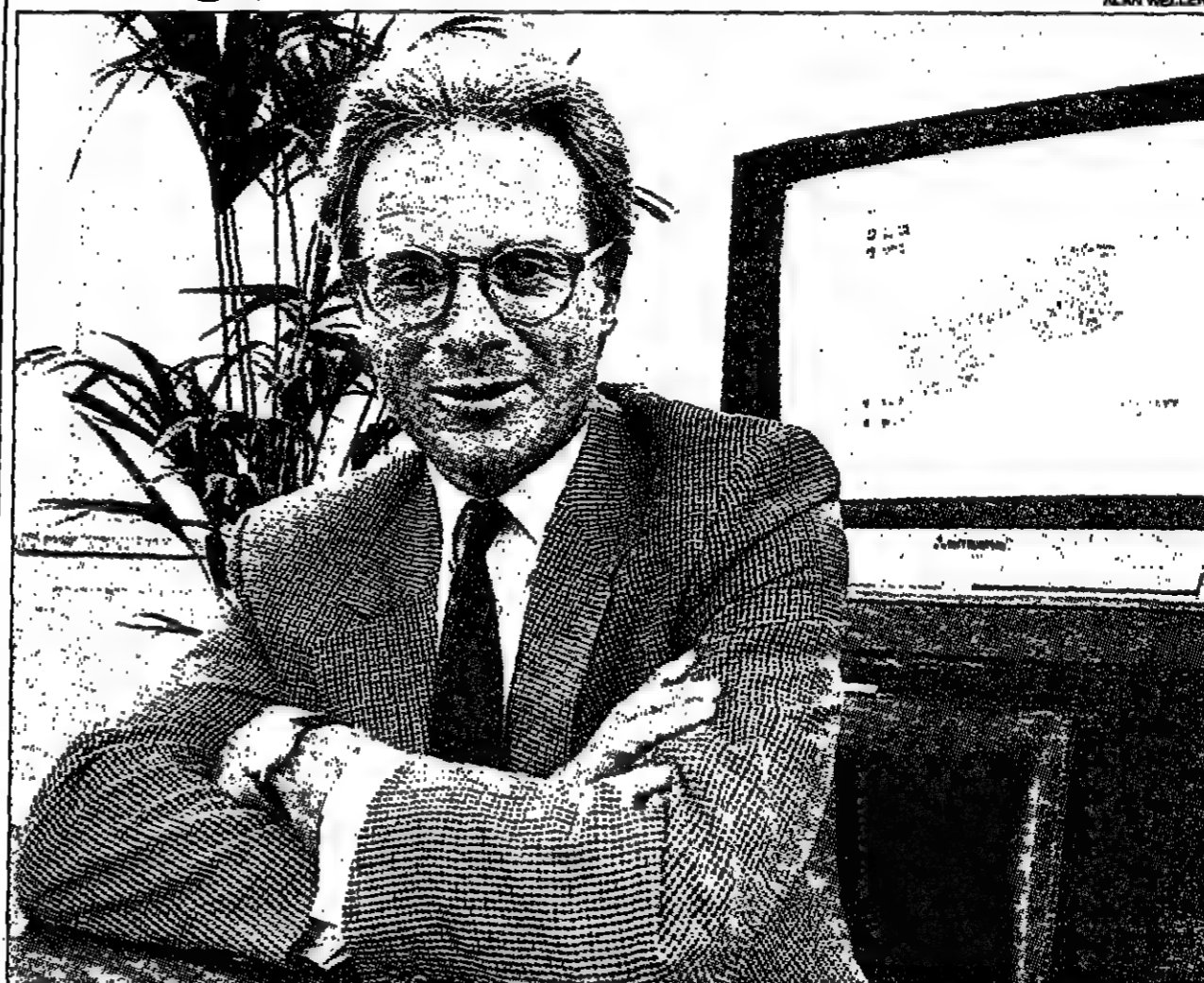
A form for notifications has been drawn up, balancing the commission's need for full information at the beginning of a case and the need to keep the burden on industry to a minimum.

The new merger regulation will be applied if any two companies have a combined annual global turnover of £u5 billion, or if each has business within the EC worth more than £u250 million. Companies that can show that more than two-thirds of their joint earnings are in a single EC country will be referred instead to national merger and monopoly bodies.

BA go-ahead, page 24

Aegis tunes in with £34.6m

ALAN WELLS



Peter Scott, chairman and chief executive of Aegis, the former advertising agency that has become a media buyer, yesterday announced profits up 58 per cent to £34.6 million, against £21.9 million, in the half-year to end-June. The interim 2.75p dividend is a 67 per cent rise on the 1.65p paid last year. Tempus, page 25

Poor result at Budgens hits shares

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BUDGENS, the supermarket group, which gave a profits warning three weeks ago, reported pre-tax profits, clean of property, of £2.76 million for the year to end-April, but after stripping out all exceptional profits and costs the group made a loss of £1.5 million.

The figures were worse than some analysts had been expecting. Forecasts had been reduced to £3 million clean of property and exceptional after the profits warning. The shares fell 5p to 55p yesterday, their low point for the year.

Budgens reported pre-tax profits, including £9.1 million of property profits, of £11.8 million for the year to April, against £16.4 million for the 70 weeks to April 1989. Sales fell from £381 million to £291 million and earnings per share fell from 14p to 10.8p. A final dividend of 5p maintains the payout at 5p for the year.

John Fletcher, chairman and chief executive, said that the £135 million aborted bid from William Low, the Scottish supermarket company, last year had disrupted the business. Problems with the distribution centre had cost the group £4.41 million. It would be some time before sales recovered fully from the problems. He expected minimal profit in the current year's first half, with a significant improvement in the second.

Major's remarks hurt pound

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE pound slid in foreign exchange markets as dealers expressed their disappointment with remarks made by John Major, the chancellor, in the Commons on Tuesday. Dealers were unhappy at his failure to mention British plans for membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

Sterling fell steeply over-

night as traders in New York and Tokyo took their profits. After opening 0.7 down on the effective rate index at 93, it was steady for most of the day in London, closing at 92.9. Against the dollar it was down 1.5 cents at \$1.8095, and against the mark down 2.19 pfennigs at DM2.9328.

In evidence to the Treasury select committee yesterday, Mr Major reaffirmed his

intention to take sterling into the ERM, but gave no clue to when.

In the stock market, gilt-edged securities fell back on the weakness of sterling, falling about 1/4.

● The Confederation of British Industry has backed the chancellor's hard ecu plan. The CBI sees the plan as a step towards a single European currency.



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Sir Leon moves to Disneyland

COMMENT

distorted without Brussels showing any noticeable interest.

Damn lies

A working party of the Royal Statistical Society has been studying the alleged "crisis of confidence" in government statistics. According to Professor Peter Moore, the working party's chairman, "There is a widely held view by the public at large that much statistical information is not of the quality that many users would expect and that, in some instances, it is being used subjectively in the domain of public policy."

will. Redefining the unemployment statistics to achieve a miraculous fall in the numbers out of work may be crude, but so long as the nature of the changes is not concealed it is difficult to say that the public has been misled.

The more serious deficiencies are in the numbers themselves. If Nigel Lawson had known in the spring of 1988 how rapidly demand was growing, interest rates would surely have gone up rather than down and taxes would have been cut by less. If we knew how to allocate the £15 billion "balancing item" for errors and omissions in the balance of payments, Britain's current account deficit might look radically different, although in what direction we cannot be sure.

The costs of bad policy decisions are incalculable. It must be right, as the chancellor has promised, to devote more resources to calculating key statistics if it is clear that by spending more the figures will be more accurate. But neither money nor independence by themselves will necessarily buy truth.

Easy Street

The rights issue that may leave BDDP, the French advertising agency, with a controlling stake of almost half in the Broad Street PR group is yet another example of Gallic ingenuity in gaining control of London-quoted companies without making a bid or paying a bid premium. The Woodchester finance group has just gone the same way, although perhaps the most notorious case was the merger of the former Metal Box packaging interests into the French-controlled CMB packaging group. It is all perfectly legitimate. The rights issue route, like the reverse takeover, routinely gains a Takeover Panel waiver from a compulsory bid under Rule 9 of the takeover code provided shareholders vote for the issue.

Continental carmakers' campaign to protect their national markets from Japanese competition by fair means or foul is relentless. The European Commission's opinion that the sale of land to build the Toyota factory near Derby was an unfair subsidy can only be explained as yet another attempt to harry Britain's new Japanese-owned motor factories. It certainly does not make sense in terms of Sir Leon Brittan's high profile campaign to cut discretionary state subsidies to industry.

If the sale of the 280-acre airfield site by Derbyshire County Council for £18.3 million was below market value, that was at least within the realms of arguments between valuers. The amounts involved were also insignificant in terms of a £700 million project.

The commission seems to have started an investigation on the strength of an anonymous letter in February. In doing so, Sir Leon has shown no consistency.

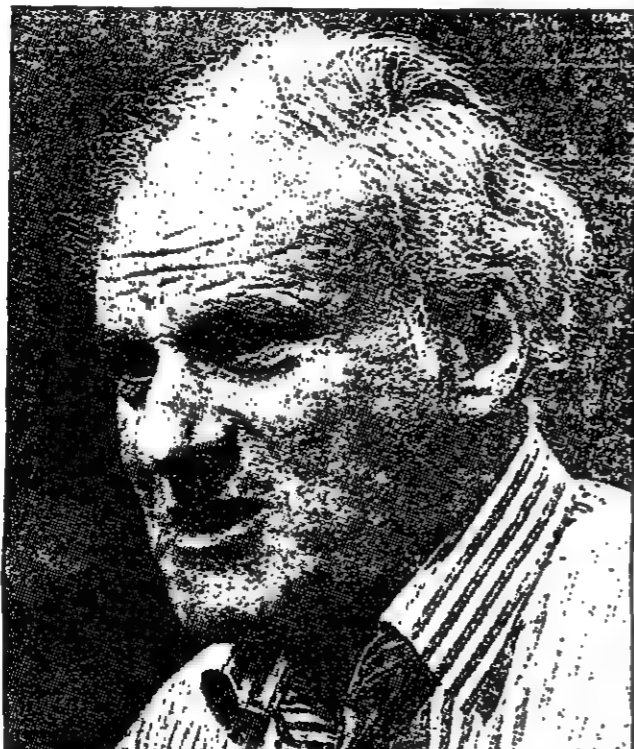
If he really wanted to look at distorting subsidies, he should turn to the giant theme park

complexes for which European countries are now competing. The proposed MCA film/leisure complex is likely to go either to the Essex marshes or Paris according to which government comes up with the best subsidy offers. The winner is likely to have to pay out about £250 million in land reclamation, transport links or other subsidies.

The French government's lure for Euro Disneyland was even more striking. Apart from providing free high-speed rail links, generous tax breaks and planning aids to maintaining monopoly, it sold EuroDisney about 4,800 acres at 1971 farmland prices.

Perhaps the EC, in pandering to smokescreen interventionists, does not regard leisure as an industry. Owners of hotels and attractions in areas from which customers of the subsidised complexes will be drawn might remind him that their competitive business is being

Power sale fails tests of honour and competence



John Lyons: government is guilty of breach of faith

with a suitable bid. Who envisaged that when Mr Parkinson's company proudly unveiled his white paper in February 1988?

If one looks back at the process of privatising electricity supply, one sees a wretched tale of incompetence from the beginning, going far beyond the unforgivable mismanagement of the country's nuclear industry.

Originally, the obligation to supply (to plan ahead to ensure adequate supplies of electricity for the future) was transferred from the Central Electricity Generating Board to the distribution companies. That has since been scrapped. A totally untested market mechanism (resting on the

generator, at least, by auction, when it was intended at the start that the British people should be able to buy shares in all parts of the industry. True, they already own it, but little conceptual difficulties like that have been effortlessly obliterated.

The fundamental flaw in the whole concept, however, has been the view that generation of electricity is a suitable activity for competition. It is not, and cannot be. The risk (and cost) associated with generating electricity is too great for anyone to engage in it without a guaranteed market.

As John Harris, chairman of East Midlands Electricity, said in *The Observer* on July 22: "New generating companies need long-term contracts to secure a place in the market."

Without long-term contracts, the risk is too great. With them, you cannot have real competition (except at the margin). That is the nub of the matter, and the government has proceeded with its plans for privatisation oblivious of that simple truth. In every other advanced industrial country, generation of electricity is based on a territorial monopoly, irrespective of whether it is a private or public monopoly.

This fundamental misconception about the nature of generating led the government to deny National Power and PowerGen the opportunity to strike long-term contracts for supplies in order to "make room" for others to enter the market.

However, while (as we forecast) "the others" are not coming in, except at the margin, National Power and PowerGen have been seen by the City and others as relatively risky investments, even though the value of their assets has been slashed to ridiculous levels to make them a suitable giveaway.

The outcome of all this, by the way, will be, as we have predicted from the start, higher-cost electricity, less reliably supplied. I hope that the public will understand why so many of the staff of a great and efficient public industry feel thoroughly disenchanted by what has been done to it.

John Lyons
General Secretary
Engineers' and Managers' Association

Lasmo lets the side down

TEMPUS

LASMO outperformed the FT-All Share Index by 8 per cent in the first half of 1990, and the oil sector by 13 per cent. Against that background, interim net profits of £32 million, a clear £2 million below expectations, were a poor reward for followers of the stock.

Weak sterling oil prices during the second quarter, virtually unchanged from last year, and the slow recovery of production from the Claymore field in the North Sea played a key role in restricting growth.

There was also a notable absence of new discoveries and net probable and proven reserves were unchanged at 433 million barrels of oil-equivalent. With daily production rising to an average of 81,700 barrels of oil-equivalent, a record, amortisation increased by 33 per cent to £51.2 million, almost double the rate of increase in operating costs.

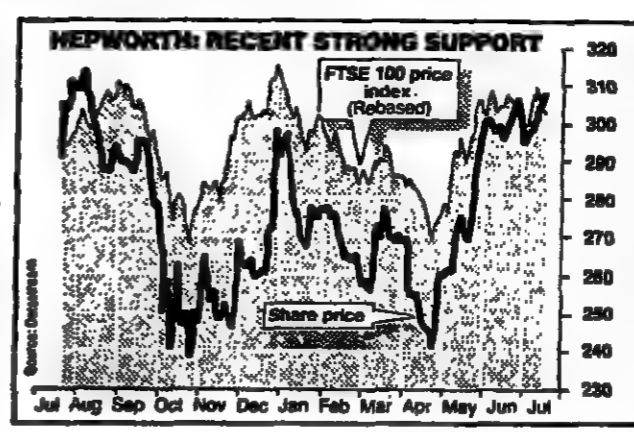
The 2.2p interim dividend was also lower than anticipated, although Chris Green, the chief executive, would argue that shareholders should not expect to benefit from possible reserves which have not yet been tapped.

Mr Green has been a consistent oil price hawk, and with the Middle East lurching towards another political crisis, his argument that prices will inevitably trend upwards are difficult to refute.

He is also confident that Lasmo's aggressive exploration and development in frontier areas such as Vietnam and Indonesia will come good. Better news is expected during the second half.

Financially, Lasmo is stronger than ever before. Capital expenditure doubled to £109 million, but cash flow from operations rose from £41 million to £74 million. The £10 million loan, received in return for the Enterprise stake less than two years ago, generated £24.4 million, which, with foreign exchange gains and other investment income, fully offset an interest charge of £36 million.

In the second half, Lasmo can reasonably expect better



average prices than the \$17.73 per barrel of oil received during the first six months. In the North Sea, Claymore should return to peak production levels before year-end.

Full-year net income of £71 million is within striking distance, putting the shares, down 3p to 44.5p, after touching 46.0p, on a prospective p/e of 22.8. They look fully valued and profits should be taken at the first hint of oil price weakness.

Hepworth

NOBODY gets wind of a change in the housebuilding market sooner than Hepworth. As the manufacturer of four in every five clay pipes for the British construction industry, it has its own built-in early warning system.

So it was that Hepworth was preparing for a downturn in housing before the end of 1988, and is today weathering the storm better than most, if not all, of its competitors.

Profits of £50.1 million for the first half of 1990, against £53.3 million, can be hailed as an achievement in the building supplies sector.

Just how badly its main competitors are faring will not be known for another month or two, but it is hard to find an encouraging word for the prospects of the likes of Marley and Norcross.

Profits from Hepworth's home products in Britain, its Glow-worm and Parkray equipment, dropped by a fifth to about £8 million as the number of people moving home fell by 45 per cent.

Returns from the industrial and commercial sector held up, although conditions are slowly starting to deteriorate. The big success was the overseas market, now contributing 42 per cent of turnover and 35 per cent of profits.

Overseas profits almost compensated for the downturn, caused by the housing downturn in Britain. May and June revenues failed to cover the financing costs of April's £153 million acquisition of Saurier Duval, the gas boiler firm, but as the weather cools in the autumn that firm should start regenerating.

Nevertheless, the group will be resigned to making less money this year than last, and will do well to top £100 million before tax. Debt stood at £76 million at end-June, representing a gearing level of 53 per cent. By year-end it should be trimmed back below 50 per cent.

Hepworth shares have rallied powerfully since the widely-approved April acquisition, and at 30.6p, sell for more than nine times earnings. They deserve the rating, and not just for the 6.5 per cent yield.

Aegis

AEGIS, the former WCRS advertising agency, looks ever more like the McDonald's of media buying. The £9 million acquisition of Media Holdings International, Scandinavia's largest media buyer, means that within Europe, only Greece and, rather strangely, the Netherlands have yet to be penetrated by the ever-

expanding Aegis network — although not for long, if industry gossip is anything to go by.

Where other British companies are merely talking, Aegis has already acted. About DM20 million of East German business has already been transacted by the company, and there are plans in progress to attack the Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovak markets once their television stations have been privatised.

With interim pre-tax profits bang on target at £34.6 million, 58 per cent up on last year, the analysts are happy with progress to date, even if they still do not quite understand the Aegis animal. Full-year profits forecasts are unusually closely bunched at a million or so on either side of £70 million, and for the time being the market is happy to believe the management's story of an ever-growing and more complex European media-buying market.

Neither will there be any complaints about the dividend, which, in line with the company's stated policy of matching the market yield, was increased by 38 per cent to 2.75p, well ahead of the 31 per cent increase in earnings per share to 17.51p.

A re-rating has been predicted since last year's extraordinarily complex restructuring, which transformed the group from yet another set of initials in a bombed-out sector to the market leader in a high-growth industry. A 15 per cent increase in the share price over the past six weeks suggests that this may now be under way, with perhaps another 10 per cent to come. That would take the multiple up to around the eight mark, still well below the market, but well ahead of the rubbish in the sector.

The Paris listing planned for later this year may be another plus point. About 35 per cent of the shares are in French hands, and media buyers are rated in the high teens on the French market.

With the interest charge covered a healthy five times, the shares look good value for the short term.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Former foes in Paribas camp

PETER Grodzinski, the specialist property salesman who styles himself "Grod" on his business cards, has been out of the limelight since MEPC took over Oldham Estates, the master company of the legendary Harry Hyams. Each year Grod would take a freshly-cooked pastry from the family bakery to Oldham Estate's annual meeting, and present it with a great deal of ceremony to the ever charming, if secretive, Mr Hyams. Grod was still at Hoare Govett when it defended Hammerson, the British property group, from a hostile takeover bid by Rodamco, the Dutch investment group, but he is about to find himself in the same camp as one of his former adversaries. Grod, aged 40 and bearded, left Hoare Govett after ten years and, on Monday, starts work at Banque Paribas. Another recruit to the London office of the French bank is Jan Vet, also a property salesman, who was previously employed by Rodamco. With Vet due to start in August, after he has completed a French language course, it will mean that Paribas now has a three-strong property sales team to work alongside analysts Nareesh Gudka and Ray Jones. "Prop-

erty has long been an area of expertise for us as a broker, going right back to the old Quiller days," says a spokesman, "and Paribas is also strongly aligned to the property sector as a bank, not just in France but all over the world." Another well-known City character, Noel Mercer, the British equity salesman, is also joining Paribas. Mercer, an Irishman, aged 41, resigned from Panmure Gordon in May, after 11 years with the firm, following a difference of opinion over management. He was one of the firm's biggest commission earners. "We are delighted that he is coming on board," says Chris Cartwright, head of equities at Paribas.

Caps off to Walker

GEORGE Walker, the chairman of Brent Walker, who, with his brother Billy, was once better known as a boxer, is still fighting fit, both personally and corporately. Walker, aged 61, who acknowledges that most companies are increasingly talking about recession, claims that his flourishing leisure group has yet to feel the pinch. "People might not be moving house or even going away on holiday, but they are certainly spending money when it comes to a night out," he says. "Our beer sales are up, our hotel occu-

pancy is up and the average drop in our casinos has also increased." But he admits that the real reason they are not suffering is because he had the foresight to cap most of Brent Walker's borrowings when interest rates were below 10 per cent. "I remember 1974 and 1981 and the one thing I learned then is that I can live with 10 per cent money, but not 17, 18 or 20 per cent like last time. I nearly sank Brent Walker. So now every time I can cap at below 10 per cent I do so. When rates were 8 per cent I couldn't wait to recap at 8 1/2 per cent. If I can cap at 8 1/2 per cent for seven years, I know I'm going to be safe." Of Walker's £725 million of debts, £600 million are, he says, now capped at an average rate of 9.7 per cent.

SO MUCH for English being the common language of Europe... a young reporter from CNN, fresh from America, and who wants to remain anonymous, dashed into a bar in Berlin and asked for a dry Martini. The barman poured three Martinis.

Who did what

TINY Rowland will be less than pleased, but so will Mohammed Al-Fayed. For the first time, Al-Fayed has been included in the latest edition of the *International*

Who's Who, published today. The entry, however, includes some of the facts unearthed about the "Egyptian businessman" during the DIT's investigation. It describes his previous career appointments, for instance, as "a former salesman for Singer sewing machines", and then, "employed by Adnan Khashoggi, 1953-57". Richard Fitzwilliams, editor of the reference book, first published in 1935, says that he would have included Al-Fayed in earlier editions, "since he has owned Harrods for some time now", but all attempts to get him to complete a biographical information form fell on stony ground. "I first sent him a form two or three years ago but he didn't complete it," says Fitzwilliams. "Then I contacted the Harrods press office, but still got no reply. Eventually we piced it together ourselves from the DIT report and an article in *The Times*."

Colgan miscast

THE Irish are famous for their parties, and Allied Irish Bank lived up to expectations on Tuesday, at the first night performance of the *Three Sisters*, the Chekhov play it is sponsoring at the Royal Court. The bank has brought the play from the Gate Theatre in Dublin, where it received rave

reviews since the title roles are played by three real-life sisters, Sorcha, Niamh and Sinead Cusack. Not to be left out, their father, Cyril Cusack, plays Ivan Romanovich, a drunken army doctor. There was a ripple of amusement when Tom Carey, AIB's British corporate development manager and the host for the evening, thanked Michael Colgan for his direction. Adrian Noble, the play's real director, did not seem to mind, but looked decidedly happier when Mr Colgan, the head of the Gate, set the record straight.

Taxing patience

LONDON commuters who complain about British Rail should spare a sympathetic thought for their fellow travellers on Teesside, who were forced to switch from a train to a taxi for the 20-mile journey from Hartlepool to Darlington on Monday morning. And it was all because a relief driver had not been "signed on" for that particular route, which means that he could not be guaranteed to know the way. "Only a handful of people were involved," says a red-faced BR man in York, who then admitted that four taxis had to be put into service and that the cost was unknown as yet.

Carol Leonard

USSR to clear German debt with Bonn aid

THE Soviet Union will pay back all its outstanding debt to West German companies by the end of next week, according to Dr Leonid Abalkin, the deputy Soviet prime minister.

Dr Abalkin said at a meeting with West German businessmen in Bonn that, of the DM1.5 billion which is currently owed to West German companies, about DM1 billion has already been paid back with the balance to be repaid during the next few days.

Dr Abalkin's announcement came less than two weeks after Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, agreed to provide a government guarantee for a DM5 billion commercial bank loan to the Soviet Union.

The funds to repay the debts will come directly out of this loan, which has resulted in the ironic situation that West German banks will indirectly pay for Soviet debt to West German companies, all guaranteed by the West German government.

The Soviet Union, until the end of last year regarded as one of the world's most respected payers of international debts, ran out of foreign currency reserves at the beginning of this year.

trade between the two countries. Particularly hard hit were West Germany's chemical industry and small-to medium-sized companies which were heavily exposed to Soviet trade.

At least one small company has been forced to go out of business as a result of the repayment difficulties.

Dr Klaus Flat, a Soviet Union specialist at the Bonn economics ministry, said:

German banks will indirectly pay for Soviet debts to German companies, guaranteed by the Bonn government

"The Soviet Union is in the process of repaying accumulated debts in tranches. It is a very encouraging sign." But when asked whether the Soviet Union's payment problems might return once the DM5 billion of funds guaranteed by West Germany has run out, he answered: "Probably yes."

He added that the guarantee is not aimed to provide a definite solution to the Soviet debt problem, but is meant only to give the country some breathing space until an international arrangement, involving the European community or the G7 countries, has been worked out. During the community

summit in Dublin at the end of last month and the G7 meeting in Houston, Texas, Western leaders have agreed to set up working groups to study the Soviet Union's specific needs for financial assistance.

However, the United States and Britain are unenthusiastic about providing aid to the Soviet Union before the introduction of a wide-ranging economic reform programme.

The West Germans, however, were allowed to go ahead on a unilateral basis.

Dr Kohl took the opportunity to sign the government guarantee during his visit to the Soviet Union at the beginning of last week, when President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to a reunited Germany in Nato.

The West German government has consistently denied that the provision of the guarantee amounted to a financial settlement in return for clearing away the last remaining obstacle to German reunification.

British companies have also been affected by the delays, although to a smaller extent. British trade amounts to only about 15 per cent of German trade with Soviet Union. There is also a greater tendency for British companies to accept barter deals.

Wolfgang Münchauer
European Business Correspondent

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Thames Water	Water	
2	Farmat (UK)	Building/Roads	
3	Clide Pet	Oil/Gas	
4	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
5	Telecom	Telecom	
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
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142	142	142	142	142	0	0	0	0
143	143	143	143	143	0	0	0	0
144	144	144	144	144	0	0	0	0
145	145	145	145	145	0	0	0	0
146	146	146	146	146	0	0	0	0
147	147	147	147	147	0	0	0	0
148	148	148	148	148	0	0	0	0
149	149	149	149	149	0	0	0	0
150	150	150	150	150	0	0	0	0
151	151	151	151	151	0	0	0	0
152	152	152	152	152	0	0	0	0
153	153	153	153	153	0	0	0	0
154	154	154	154	154	0	0	0	0
155	155	155	155	155	0	0	0	0
156	156	156	156	156	0	0	0	0
157	157	157	157	157	0	0	0	0
158	158	158	158	158	0	0	0	0
159	159	159	159	159	0	0	0	0
160	160	160	160	160	0	0	0	0
161	161	161	161	161	0	0	0	0
162	162	162	162	162	0	0	0	0
163	163	163	163	163	0	0	0	0
164	164	164	164	164	0	0	0	0
165	165	165	165	165	0	0	0	0
166	166	166	166	166	0	0	0	0
167	167	167	167	167	0	0	0	0
168	168	168	168	168	0	0	0	0
169	169	169	169	169	0	0	0	0
170	170	170	170	170	0	0	0	0
171	171	171	171	171	0	0	0	0
172	172	172	172	172	0	0	0	0
173	173	173	173	173	0	0	0	0
174	174	174	174	174	0	0	0	0
175	175	175	175	175	0	0	0	0
176	176	176	176	176	0	0	0	0
177	177	177	177	177	0	0	0	0
178	178	178	178	178	0	0	0	0
179	179	179	179	179	0	0	0	0
180	180	180	180	180	0	0	0	0
181	181	181	181	181	0	0	0	0
182	182	182	182	182	0	0	0	0
183	183	183	183	183	0	0	0	0
184	184	184	184	184	0	0	0	0
185	185	185	185	185	0	0	0	0
186	186	186	186	186	0	0	0	0
187	187	187	187	187	0	0	0	0
188	188	188	188	188	0	0	0	0
189	189	189	189	189	0	0	0	0
190	190	190	190	190	0	0	0	0
191	191	191	191	191	0	0	0	0
192	192	192	192	192	0	0	0	0
193	193	193	193	193	0	0	0	0
194	194	194	194	194	0	0	0	0
195	195	195	195	195	0	0	0	0
196	196	196	196	196	0	0	0	0
197	197	197	197	197	0	0	0	0
198	198	198	198	198	0	0	0	0
199	199	199	199	199	0	0	0	0
200	200	200	200	200	0	0	0	0
201	201	201	201	201	0	0	0	0
202	202	202	202	202	0	0	0	0
203	203	203	203	203	0	0	0	0
204	204	204	204	204	0	0	0	0
205	205	205	205	205	0	0	0	0
206	206	206	206	206	0	0	0	0
207	207	207	207	207	0	0	0	0
208	208	208	208	208	0	0	0	0
209	209	209	209	209	0	0	0	0
210	210	210	210	210	0	0	0	0
211	211	211	211	211	0	0	0	0
212	212	212	212	212	0	0	0	0
213	213	213	213	213	0	0	0	0
214	214	214	214	214	0	0	0	0
215	215	215	215	215	0	0	0	0
216	216	216	216	216	0	0	0	0
217	217	217	217	217	0	0	0	0
218	218	218	218	218	0	0	0	0
219	219	219	219	219	0	0	0	0
220	220	220	220	220	0	0	0	0
221	221	221	221	221	0	0	0	0
222	222	222	222	222	0	0	0	0
223	223	223	223	223	0	0	0	0
224	224	224	224	224	0	0	0	0
225	225	225	225	225	0	0	0	0
226	226	226	226	226	0	0	0	0
227	227	227	227	227	0	0	0	0
228	228	228	228	228	0	0	0	0

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[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Open High Low Close Vol					Open High Low Close Vol				
FT-SE 100					Three month ECU				
Jan 90	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	Sept 90	89.71	89.71	89.71	89.71
Dec 89	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	2400.0	Oct 90	89.71	89.71	89.71	89.71
Three Month Sterling					US Treasury Bond				
Jan 90	83.25	83.25	83.25	83.25	Sept 90	92.06	92.06	92.06	92.06
Dec 89	83.11	83.11	83.11	83.11	Long Gilt	90.15	90.15	90.15	90.15
Three Month Eurodollar					Japanese Bond				
Jan 90	82.02	82.02	82.02	82.02	Sept 90	90.30	90.30	90.30	90.30
Dec 89	82.02	82.02	82.02	82.02	German Govt Bond				
Three Month Euro DM					Sept 90	84.21	84.21	84.21	84.21
Jan 90	81.54	81.54	81.54	81.54	Dec 90	84.20	84.20	84.20	84.20
Dec 89	81.54	81.54	81.54	81.54	Previous open interest				

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				
Official price/volume previous day					Routel Weight				
(t/tonne)					Cash 3 month Vol				
COPPER					Aluminum				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
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Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
COBALT					Aluminum 99.99%				
Jan 90	1507.5	1508.3	1493.5	1494.0	Sept 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925
Dec 89	1472.0	1472.5	475.0	475.0	Oct 90	501.925	501.925	501.925	501.925

WHAT'S THE FIRST
THAT COMES
To mind?
Probably the
the first
And rightness
certainties
If you have
down, and
skills, a life
and a brain
could make
and call on
the most big
And
King Liu Sun
SAATCHI & SAATCHI
EXECUTIVE
SPECIAL
OFFICE
CUSTOMER SERVICE
To turn an expanding software
The job involves reorganising the
the telephone and keeping track
chemicals & Supermarkets etc
THE QUALITY
- HIGHLY ORGANISED
- INTELLIGENCE AND FLEXIBILITY
- FLUENT AND POSITIVE
- ABILITY TO QUICKLY
- INSTANT REPORT ON
TELEPHONE
071-7
THE TIMES 27.6.90
Some of advertiser's Press Life
Other media used: Films, radio & TV
Granada, 19th century
Galaxy, Very hot
ADVERTISERS COMING
No need to repeat address and
response, as we are able to place 3 only
advertisements - The Times has a good
- IT'S THE RESULT

